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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

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THEatre SECRET

Government hits back in cash for access row as focus shifts to links between lobbyist and Minister

# Now the heat is on Mandelson

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
AND JANINE GIBSON

THE GOVERNMENT went on the offensive as the "cash-for-access" affair continued yesterday, dismissing reports that lobbyists had privileged access in Whitehall and defending the honour of an adviser accused of offering introductions.

But the spotlight fell increasingly on Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who has had close links for several years with both the adviser, Roger Liddle, and one of the lobbyists, Derek Draper.

Mr Mandelson and Mr Draper both gave media interviews yesterday after speaking the previous evening about how they should tackle the crisis.

The minister had advised his former employee that the only way to salvage any credibility

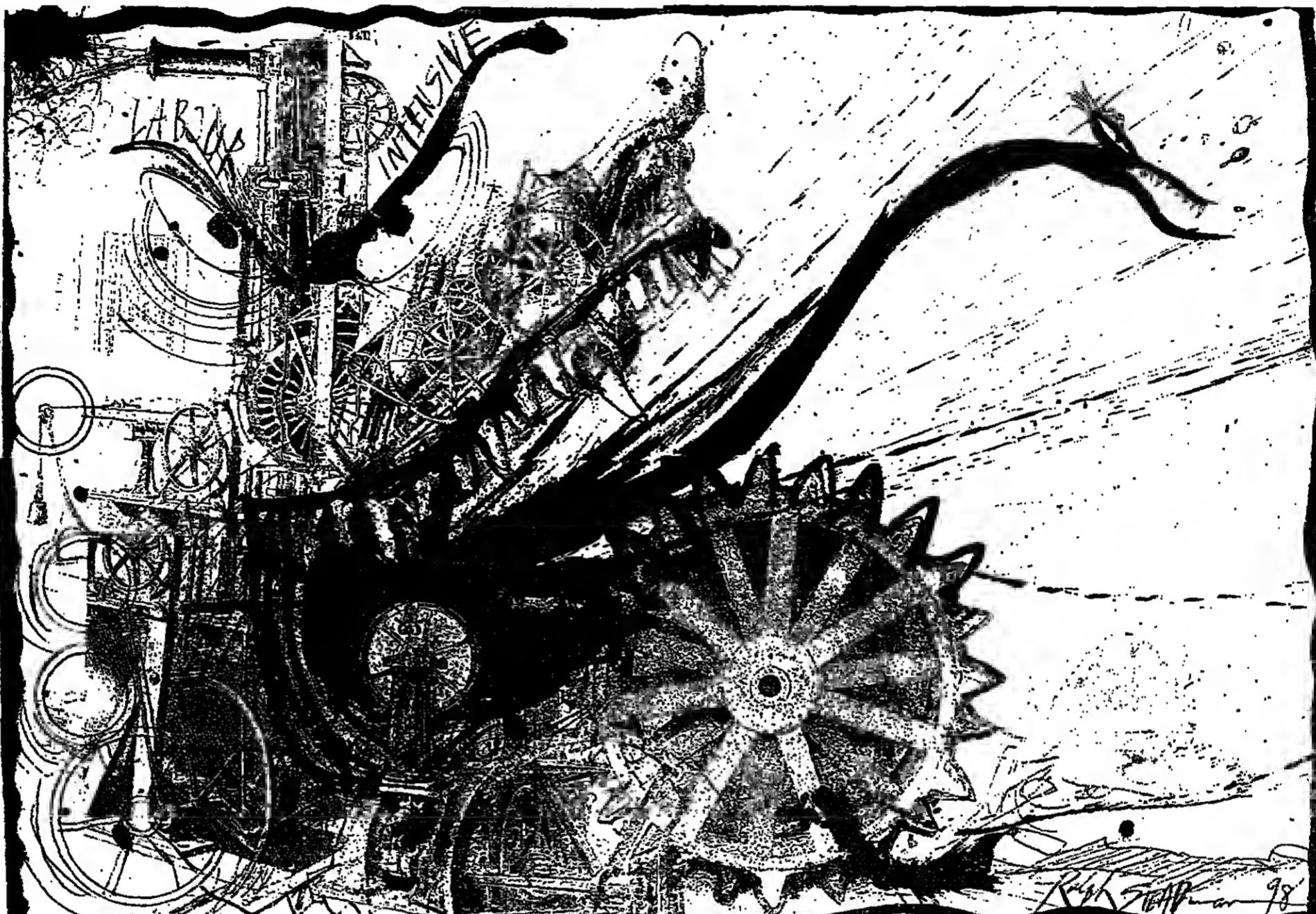
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was to speak publicly about the reports and to apologise for his foolishness.

Mr Draper had been quoted in the *Observer* newspaper as saying that he was "intimate" with the 17 most important people in the Government, and that Peter Mandelson vetted his column in the *Express* newspaper.

Yesterday, he said the 100 words of quotes in the *Observer* were "cobbled together" from five hours of discussions. He had not claimed ministers' decisions could be altered in return for cash. "I am sorry for any embarrassment I have caused (to the Labour Party)," he said. "I accept that I am guilty of being an occasional big mouth, but nothing else."

Mr Mandelson described Mr Draper as "a bit of a showman".



And he went on: "He is a bit of a show-off and rather good at selling himself and, in the course of that, making claims and boasts that really don't stack up. But that is not the same as saying that he breaks the rules or breaks the law, or that he is a congenitally dishonest person."

Mr Draper worked for Mr

Mandelson between 1992 and 1996, and played a big part in writing the book that his employer co-authored with Roger Liddle, the Downing Street policy official at the centre of the row. Mr Draper wrote some sections of *The Blair Revolution* and researched others.

Mr Draper set up a company, 3C Ltd, which carried out

small orders for the book and set up seminars at which Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson talked about their work. Since the election, Mr Draper, now a lobbyist, has continued to meet Mr Mandelson and to telephone him regularly. Although there has been no claim that the minister passed on information improperly, he also takes a

close interest in Mr Draper's Progress magazine and writes regular articles for it.

Mr Mandelson has been friends with Mr Liddle since the two were on Lambeth Council together between 1979 and 1982. Mr Mandelson was instrumental in bringing his friend back to Labour after he left to join the SDP, and is believed to have helped get him appointed to the Downing Street Policy Unit last year.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister appeared to have relaxed his guard over the affair after the *Observer* acknowledged it did not have a tape of Mr Liddle's alleged offer to make introductions for businessmen. Making his first public com-

ment on the affair, he said he would take no action against Mr Liddle without proof of wrongdoing. "I do not think it's right to dismiss someone and ruin

The letter to Mr Powell details Mr Palast's role as a policy adviser to the Labour Party during the year leading up to the 1997 election.

## CHILDREN IN SUDAN ARE DYING

She's exhausted and starving, but she's walked all day to bring her grandchild to a relief centre. She may be too late.

Civil war and drought have brought thousands of children to the brink of death in Sudan. Malnourished, exhausted and sick, they are in desperate need of help. As the lead agency coordinating relief efforts in southern Sudan, UNICEF is providing high-energy foods, medical supplies and shelter to as many as possible. But every day more children move closer to starvation.

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Abiola: heart attack

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## Blair agrees to meet Orangemen

TONY BLAIR has agreed to meet Orange Order leaders tomorrow amid apprehension that Orangemen intend to bring the Drumcree stand-off to a head with a large-scale confrontation on Monday.

Tens of thousands of Orange marchers will take to the streets on Monday for their annual commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The prospect of up to 70,000 marchers being available for protests and demonstrations will provide the most exacting test of the authorities' ability to

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

prevent a breakdown of law and order.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army have been kept at full stretch dealing with disturbances. Police said yesterday that more than 1,000 outbreaks of disorder had been recorded in the 72-hour period up to 6am yesterday. It was announced that 800 extra troops are being drafted into Northern Ireland later this week. The incidents included 246 attacks

on the security forces which injured 42 police officers. These included three gun attacks and bomb throwing.

The First Minister, David Trimble, said yesterday: "I am appalled at so-called loyalists who have attempted to murder members of the RUC. Orangemen must realise that if this violence continues it will only be a matter of time before we are once again following coffin."

Continuing disturbances were reported last night in Belfast and elsewhere. Belfast city centre had the appear-

ance of a ghost town. While Mr Blair has agreed to see Orange leaders, Downing Street was giving no sign that the Prime Minister proposed to reverse the ruling which prevented Orange marchers going down the Garvaghy Road in Portadown.

The already tense situation in the town deteriorated when gangs of loyalists attempted to hinder access to the Catholic area, whose main entrances are guarded by formidable security force fortifications. The Orange Order said it had not organised the protests.

A high court judge in Belfast said yesterday that very few of the people arrested during the disturbances were genuine protesters. During a bail hearing Mr Justice Campbell said most had criminal records for disorderly behaviour or assault.

The Rev Ian Paisley predicted that Monday's marches would be "the decider". He added: "I think the outcome will be that these men will be going down the road anyway. And they'd be far better letting them down before the 12th of July, because anybody here who has

any imagination knows what's going to happen on the 12th of July."

Mr Blair told journalists in London he would be happy to meet the Orange Order. "I think they are in a very responsible way, trying to resolve the situation. Obviously, any resolution has got to be consistent with the rule of law. The rule of law in the UK must be made paramount and I think a discussion as to how we resolve this would be very worthwhile."

Women and children join Orangemen, page 4

## Abiola dies 'day before release from jail'

THE FUTURE of reform in Nigeria was thrown into turmoil yesterday by the sudden death of the West African country's imprisoned democracy leader Chief Moshood Abiola.

Abiola died of an apparent cardiac arrest at 4pm, an official statement said. He was reported to have collapsed in the middle of a meeting with Nigerian government officials

BY JAMES ROBERTS

and members of a high-ranking American delegation.

The US group, led by Thomas Pickering, had just arrived in Nigeria on a mission to test the new regime's democratic intentions and, among other things, secure the chief's release. It was widely expected that he might leave jail as

early as today. The future road to democracy in Nigeria was to a great extent dependent on the choices Abiola made as to the conditions under which he would leave prison.

Abiola was jailed after winning elections in 1993 and then the following year proclaiming himself Nigeria's President – a decision that angered the country's late military ruler, General

Sani Abacha. The main question was whether he would resign his claim to the presidency on his release from jail.

Chief Abiola's reputation was not spotless. He himself had had close links to the military and his own, and their, financial interests were deeply interconnected. But during his years in prison he became a symbol of the struggle against

the military dictatorship in Nigeria, which gained further momentum after General Abacha's recent death.

However, it was the fate of Chief Abiola which was widely seen as the crucial test of the democratic credentials of the new government.

His death threatens to leave the democracy movement in Nigeria leaderless.

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Derek Draper, the man at the heart of the cash for access affair, maintains he's done nothing wrong

# 'I'm a bit of a boaster, bit of a big head, but it's not quite Watergate, is it?'

BY SUZANNE MOORE

WHEN I first met Derek Draper years ago he was already bragging. He was, he told me, going to write a best-selling novel full of political intrigue. "A cross between Jeffrey Archer and Bret Easton Ellis", he announced.

That remark made me immediately suspicious of him. Indeed, anybody who seeks to emulate Jeffrey Archer in any way at all must be peculiar.

I was also suspicious of his friends – fey young men in good suits who worked for various lobbying companies. They could have been Tories but they said they supported the Labour Party. They patronised Derek; they told him his suit looked like the inside of a cheap motel room but they needed Derek because Derek knew the right people. He had worked for Peter Mandelson.

These days Draper wears more expensive suits. He has a Mercedes and a flat in Primrose Hill. He was on holiday in Italy when a friend rang him with "really bad news".

He remembered the "dodgy and weird American" he had met a few times who told him that he represented a New York law firm and had a sister high up in the Clinton administration. He met the American a few times. He introduced him to Roger Liddle, a member of the in-house policy unit, at a reception "because that's the kind of thing that goes on. I made the mistake of assuming that Mr Palast was OK".

During the course of these meetings Draper made the claims that have led to his being suspended from the lobbying firm GPC – Market Access. He has also lost his sinisterly titled newspaper column "Inside the mind of New Labour" in the Express.

He may have said some dumb things to Palast who was, in fact, an Observer journalist, but he denies doing anything wrong. "What am I being accused of?" he asks. Well, he is being accused of obtaining classified information and passing it on to commercial clients. He is being accused of offering access to government for cash.

"I regret being boastful and bragging but it's not a crime. The guy was an American. He just kept asking me who I knew and if I had any power. It became irritating. Eventually I did get out my pager to show him. I told him that I did go to tea with Geoffrey Robinson because I do. But just because I said I knew these people I was not offering them up for sale."

Draper claims he was entrapped by the Observer and that it only they would release the five hours of tape we would see that his remarks have been taken out of context, though it would be so embarrassing to him that he would have to "hide under the duvet". God knows what I said.

"I have signed up to the code that lobbyists sign up to. The Observer have every right to investigate this world for abuses but, having spoken to me at length, they have failed to entrap me. OK, I'm a bit of a boaster, a bit of a big head, but it's not quite Watergate is it?"



Derek Draper is a media-savvy, working-class-boy-made-good. But it is hard to see how he can continue as a political lobbyist now

thing wrong?" When I said that I hadn't, she just said "Oh good. Now keep that big mouth shut."

Clearly, Draper is not keeping his mouth shut. He is zooming from TV studio to TV studio to play the part of the mischievous but innocent. He must come out fighting for it is difficult to see how he can retain a career as a lobbyist following such notoriety.

Most of the time he keeps himself frighteningly on-message. Once when I ask him about his reputation with women and he stammers and stutters and comes out with a line about how lucky he is to have gone out with some incredible women. "I don't really like personal questions". He hesitates again when I ask him if all power corrupts. "No, it doesn't. I don't think I have that much power. But that influence, you have to earn it."

Doubtless he has worked hard behind the scenes to get to know the people he claims as friends. Now, though, this media-savvy, working-class-boy-made-good complains that the press are serving up a story with "Derek the Show Off, Peter the Manipulator and Tony the Tarnished".

Perhaps they are and perhaps Derek has learnt his lesson. People say that I only care about Derek, Derek, Derek, but now Derek has learnt the hard way that he has to."

There are those who say that whatever Mandelson's public reaction to this, he will always remain loyal to "his boy" as his boy knows where the bodies are buried.

Right now, though, Draper hardly seems chastened at all. He will bounce back I'm sure. Public humiliation seems beyond him. He may not write like Jeffrey Archer but New Labour has found in Draper a figure with as much ambition and braggadocio as Jeffrey Archer. And the odd little scandal never did him much harm.

Rui Xavier

But that's not selling a meeting. It's just like what a PA might do. "For instance, the House-builders' Federation came to me. They want to build more houses and I know how New Labour thinks, so I came up with the line 'Where will Blair's Sierra man live?' I know how to make these things accessible."

Draper sees his job as that of an intermediary between two different worlds: that of business and that of politics, and he sees no contradiction in this. "There is nothing wrong with being a Labour supporter and doing well in life. I always made the joke that I'm a Labour sell-out and I'm not talking metaphorically."

If Draper has been a bit too flash, a bit too showy for some of his colleagues, he remains unbowed. "I came from a long but poor working-class background. My parents never had any savings. Now I can help them. I do drink champagne and some people resent it."

But it is not the champagne drinking that many of Draper's colleagues resent, it is his relationship to Peter Mandelson, his almost Thatcherite devotion to the free market and the feeling that many of the sharp young operators in the new administration have no relationship to the grassroots of the party.

This cannot be said of Draper, who has been a member of the party since he was 17 and says he would never do anything to harm it. "I've stuffed envelopes for Gordon Brown. I've been out on the minibuses campaigning."

Yet the suspicion that New Labour is underpinned by a system of patronage remains. "No, there is no patronage," says Draper. "I've never been given anything. I've never asked and I've never been given. If I am being accused of getting access to the government, why didn't I mention Mr Mandelson? You have to understand I know these people. I would never ask them for a single favour."

What he can do, though, is "give things a bit of a push". He is, he says, in the end, accountable to his clients.

It would be very strange, he says, if he hadn't talked to Mandelson about his column "and

a load of other people as well". While Mandelson has been publicly distancing himself from his former aide, Draper had just been in the same TV studio as him. Draper claims that Mandelson is a much-maligned character and that none of this has anything to do with him. So what did Peter say then? "He's always said that I was a bit of a showman, that I

would get my come-uppance, that my big mouth would get me into trouble one day."

Draper's mother said much the same thing. "She rang up and said, 'Have you done any-

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## Mandelson plays down his friendship with former aide

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

Draper's column for the Express, though yesterday he said he spoke to him about it twice.

Friends of the men say the articles were usually seen by Mr Mandelson's special adviser, Ben Wegg Prosser, a close friend of Mr Draper.

Mr Draper's friendship with Roger Liddle, his former business partner and now a member of the Downing Street policy unit, has continued to be close. Sources say they worked together on Mr Draper's book *The First 100 Days* last year, and that Mr Liddle visited the offices of Prima Europe, the lobbying company of which both were directors, every few days.

Mr Mandelson first met Mr Liddle in 1979, when he won a by-election to become a Lam-

beth councillor. Mr Liddle was already on the council, and in the days of Militant dominance the two became allies. After their three years together at Lambeth, Mr Liddle left Labour to join the SDP and they drifted apart, only to become friendly again around 1992, as Labour moved to the right.

Although the minister no longer has time for the supper parties Mr Liddle held before the election, at his home in Kennington, for him, Mr Draper and Mr Wegg Prosser, the four are still very much in touch.

No one claims that Mr Mandelson has ever passed any government information improperly to Mr Draper. But Mr Draper's magazine has undoubtedly been helpful to the minister and to others who wanted to float radical ideas without being connected to them.

# Synod in call to ban tobacco adverts

THE CHURCH of England has entered the smoking debate, calling on the Government to ban all tobacco advertising.

Members of the General Synod have overwhelmingly backed a private members' motion "deplored the continued advertising of cigarettes in Britain and the aggressive marketing of tobacco in the Third World despite overwhelming evidence that smoking kills".

The motion was carried by 375 to 5, with only one member speaking against it. Synod members urged the Government to implement the EU directive banning tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion by 31 December 1999.

All point-of-sale advertising and the use of tobacco brand names on non-tobacco products should be outlawed too, they said.

The Rev Christopher Hall, from the diocese of Oxford, who tabled the motion, referred to a recent book on human freedom written by a vicar which concludes "that God only permits us the freedom to do harm to ourselves and to others in order that we can thereby learn the true value of doing and promoting good".

Mr Hall singled out advertising to sports at events - a well-known thorn in the Labour Party's side: "The peer pressure is deliberately created by commercial interests; advertising creates a climate in which smoking is seen as acceptable, as macho, as progressive, as modern. Hence the choice of sport as a prime vehicle for that advertising."

He spoke about the former chancellor Kenneth Clarke's directorship of BAT. "On Radio Four he claimed that tobacco advertising is only aimed to increase market share for a particular brand," said Mr Hall.

BY CLARE GARNER

"That is, dare I say, a smoke-screen. Indeed, Mr Clarke pronounced that *nostrum* with less than his usual ebullient conviction. He did not give the impression he himself believed it."

The Rev John Gulle, of the diocese of Winchester, spoke of the success that the island of Guernsey is having in discouraging smoking through offering free nicotine replacement courses and intensive education in schools.

Diana Webster, a lay member for Europe, told the Synod that in Finland, where she lived, the process of banning tobacco advertising began in 1981. It took 14 years to achieve that ban, but six months later, after intensive health education, there was a drop in the number of smokers, particularly among men.

■ Vacancies for the post of diocesan bishop may be advertised in the future following a review by the Church of England into the highly secretive process of appointing its leaders.

Candidates who under the present system are not allowed to know that they are being considered, may be invited to submit their CV and references, and to attend an interview.

Members of the General Synod yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a review of the archaic system. Under the present system, individual appointments are made in the greatest secrecy by the Crown Appointments Commission (CAC), the body which submits two names to the Prime Minister so that one can be forwarded to the Monarch.

Last October, Tony Blair exercised his right to reject the two names put forward for the See of Liverpool, and demanded a further two.



An RUC officer hiding beside a wall during violent clashes with loyalist youths in Belfast city centre yesterday

## Women and children join Orangemen

PORTADOWN, THE epicentre of Northern Ireland's current turmoil, yesterday witnessed the first outbreak of sustained disturbances.

In a carefully planned, military-style operation, the Orange Order - which planned march through Garvagh Road is resulting in a current stand-off - organised a series of mini-stages across the town.

Loyalist families gave their support to the Orange Order with dozens of women and children taking part in sit-down road protests. Police were taunted and asked whether they would be forcibly removed.

BY NICOLE VEASH

ing babies in their pushchairs. The prime target was the nationalist enclave of Garvagh Road which was blockaded throughout the day stretching the resources of the security forces.

The latest developments added fuel to an increasingly volatile situation which has seen sporadic violence across the province, leading to 800 extra troops being airlifted in.

The violence also lead to complaints of intimidation by Garvagh Road residents which were backed by Sinn

Fein president Gerry Adams. As phase two of the Orange Order's Drumcree 1998 operation moved into place at 8am yesterday, five organised protests sealed off the main artery roads surrounding the largely Catholic area. Up to 100 Orangemen gathered at each of the designated sites playing Lambeg drums.

Adding to the mounting tension, police discovered three devices which were initially believed to be bombs but later proved to be hoaxes.

One senior Orangeman said: "We are determined to see this out with a peaceful protest. We

have sympathisers in the RUC who keep us informed of their movements and let us know when they are at their weakest.

We knew that the RUC had been up all night and only just gone to bed. We have deliberately tried to tire them out with small, sporadic demonstrations across the county."

Normal activities in Portadown ground to a halt with many shops and businesses shut down due to fear of further trouble. Traffic was severely disrupted with streets closed by angry Loyalists and police road blocks.

One 28-year-old woman, campaigning with her three-year-old son, said: "If Orangemen want to pass through we will let them. We have no intention of them or their families suffering."

At a road block in the Corcrain estate, a flashpoint in interface with the nearby Catholic area, men watched from the pavement as women and children took to the streets.

Using lumps of wood, old dustbins and a dusky pink headboard to block the street, Weedy, 36, said: "We are here to support our Orangemen. The local residents are behind us and understand why

we have to block the roads."

Nine-year-old Jenny, a veteran of sit down protests, said: "My mummy has been taking me to these since I was five. I'm not scared of the police."

■ Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is conducting a "further review" into the case of the two Scots guardmen jailed for the murder of a Belfast teenager.

James Fisher, 29, from Ayr and Mark Wright, 24, from Arbroath, were convicted of the murder of 18-year-old Peter McBride while they were on patrol in 1992, and sentenced to life.

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BBC presenter Adrian Chiles, who's mother is from Croatia, was 'in heaven' when Croatia beat Germany

## Genetic crops 'will kill off the songbirds'

ENGLISH NATURE, the Government's wildlife agency, yesterday called for a three-year moratorium on the commercial growing of genetically modified crops in Britain, saying that they could damage farmland wildlife "catastrophically".

Their introduction could lead to the disappearance of the skylark and other well-loved birds from Britain's fields, the agency said, in an intervention which dramatically intensified the debate on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The United Kingdom's first bioengineered crop is due to be grown and harvested next year, but the whole process should be halted while essential research is carried out on the possible effects of such crops on the environment, English Nature said.

In particular, it fears the use of deadlier and stronger weed-killers with crops genetically engineered to tolerate them could wipe out all other plant, insect and bird life over wide swaths of land, and could be the "final blow" for bird species already in serious decline because of intensive farming.

The agency's intervention comes as the GMO debate in

terms, a subsidiary of the biotechnology company AgriEvo. The new plant is waiting for clearance of the herbicide which has been developed to go with it, a decision that will be with the Farming minister Jeff Rooker.

But English Nature says it should wait for the results of more than 20 current research projects into the environmental effects of using such new organisms and the chemicals that go with them.

"The introduction of GMOs... may be a revolution as profound as the introduction of intensive farming in the 1970s," said Brian Johnson, the agency's adviser on GMOs.

Although biotechnology companies have said that farmers will need to use smaller amounts of weedkiller with herbicide-tolerant plants, Dr Johnson said it was not a question of amount, but of impact.

"At the moment, selective herbicides are used, which leave some other plants alive, so that birds and their chicks can feed on the seeds... Crops engineered to be herbicide-tolerant allow the use of broad-spectrum herbicides which kill absolutely everything."

## Croatian passion forged by civil war

FOR A nation of less than five million inhabitants, Croatia has gained a great deal of support at this World Cup. A new country, seeking an identity after the trauma of a brutal civil war, they conform to our ideal of the underdog, while, as a vote-winning exercise, beating Germany at football is never a bad thing.

Nor can you help but warm to the passion displayed by the Croatian fans whose distinctive red and white tablecloth colours have added another dimension to the pageant being played out in France these past five weeks.

An echo of the raucous support which greeted their remarkable three-nil triumph in Lyons over the Germans last weekend was also heard in the Cro's Nest bar in Toronto, at The Academy in London's Holloway Park, and at all those other places around the world where Croatians gather.

Tonight they will all meet up again to see if the little Balkan country which did not even exist when England were enjoying success at the 1990 tour-

BY TREVOR HAYLETT

ment and which is competing at the World Cup for the first time, can overcome France.

There is a relationship between player and follower that puts other countries to shame.

In the eastern French town of Vitteil, temporary home to the Croatian team, players have visited local bars to mingle with fans, buy them drinks, and in some cases provide tickets and money for accommodation.

The players are very close to the fans. It is one of the reasons why there is such a fantastic atmosphere in our camp," said Darko Tironi, a spokesman for the Croatian Football Federation.

It is a phenomenon not peculiar to football. There is also loud and colourful support for their tennis player Goran Ivanisevic and for the basketball team (silver medallists at the 1992 Olympics).

"Imagine what it would be like if people here weren't allowed to call themselves English until seven years ago,"

World Cup, pages 27-30

### IN BRIEF

#### Girl, 4, dies in tractor tragedy

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl was fatally injured in front of her parents when her father accidentally drove a tractor over her, police said yesterday. Attempts were made by the parents, police and ambulance paramedics to revive the child, but she was declared dead shortly after arriving at hospital.

It is understood the girl suffered massive head injuries after falling under the wheels of the tractor yesterday afternoon on a farm in the village of Ramsden, near Witney, Oxfordshire.

#### Shake-up call for prison work

A RADICAL overhaul of employment opportunities in jail would help rehabilitate inmates and generate extra income for prisons, a report said yesterday. Haphazard provision of workshops and an confused accounting system meant too many jails were not making the most of existing work space, the National Advisory Council for Boards of Visitors said in their report.

#### Five accused of doctor's murder

FIVE PEOPLE have appeared in a South African court charged with killing a British surgeon.

Spencer Alexander, from Aberdeen, who worked in a surgery in Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal, was gunned down while on an emergency call last summer. The accused, who include two juveniles, pleaded not guilty.

#### Children in care unaware of rights

A THIRD of the 60,000 youngsters being looked after by the state do not know how to voice complaints, a survey revealed yesterday. Those in children's homes are more likely to know their rights than those fostered by families. The report, *Remember My Messages* by the Who Cares? Trust, surveyed 2,000 children in care.

#### KEN LIVINGSTONE

"Parliamentary democracy has long ceased to be a level playing field - you don't have to be rich to play, but it helps"

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

### Slander doctor jailed for contempt

BY CATHY GORDON

A DOCTOR accused by a former colleague of setting out to ruin him was yesterday jailed for three months for contempt of court.

Mr Justice Tucker, at the High Court, ruled that "exceedingly devious" Alana Houston had flagrantly and deliberately flouted court orders not to remove her assets.

The move to have her sent to jail for contempt was made by Dr Malcolm Smith, who successfully sued Houston in 1991 for slander and won £150,000 in damages, later reduced to £50,000 on appeal. Dr Smith, who had shared the Hunsbury surgery in Northampton with Houston, started the slander proceedings after his colleague accused him in 1989 of sexual harassment of her and female staff.

Houston was also ordered to pay his legal costs, but Dr Smith said that although he was the winner in the slander case he has been left in debt and out of work.

At the start of the hearing Dr Smith, 42, said his former colleague had a "pathological" hatred of him and wanted to bring about his financial ruin.

Houston, of Yardley Gobion, near Towcester, Northants, was accused of being a "cunning" woman and an "inveterate liar".

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# Public Announcement

## Cancelled Italian Order

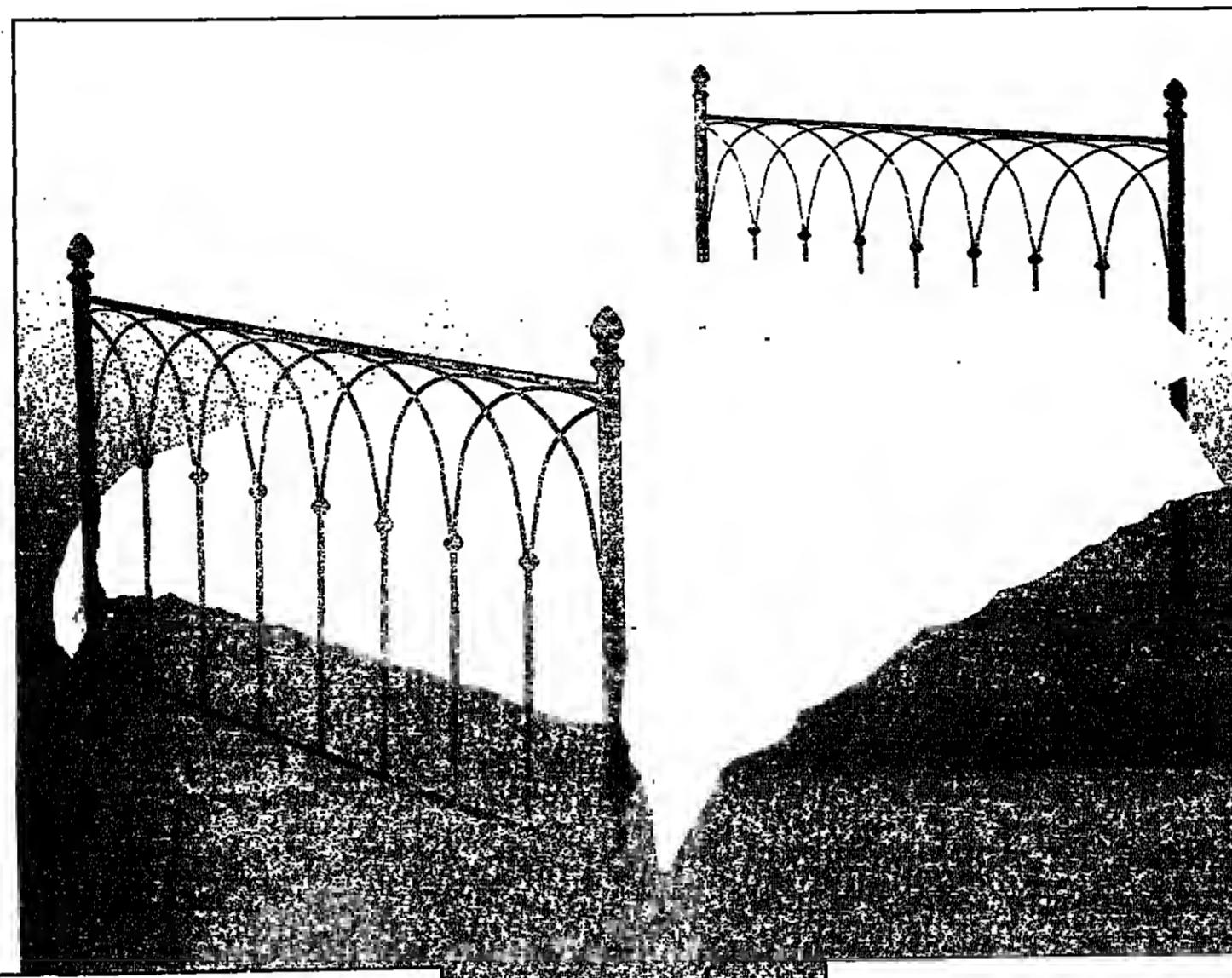
Due to cancelled export order, there are a quantity  
of handcrafted beds to be disposed of.

Why pay retail prices of between £600 and £2000.

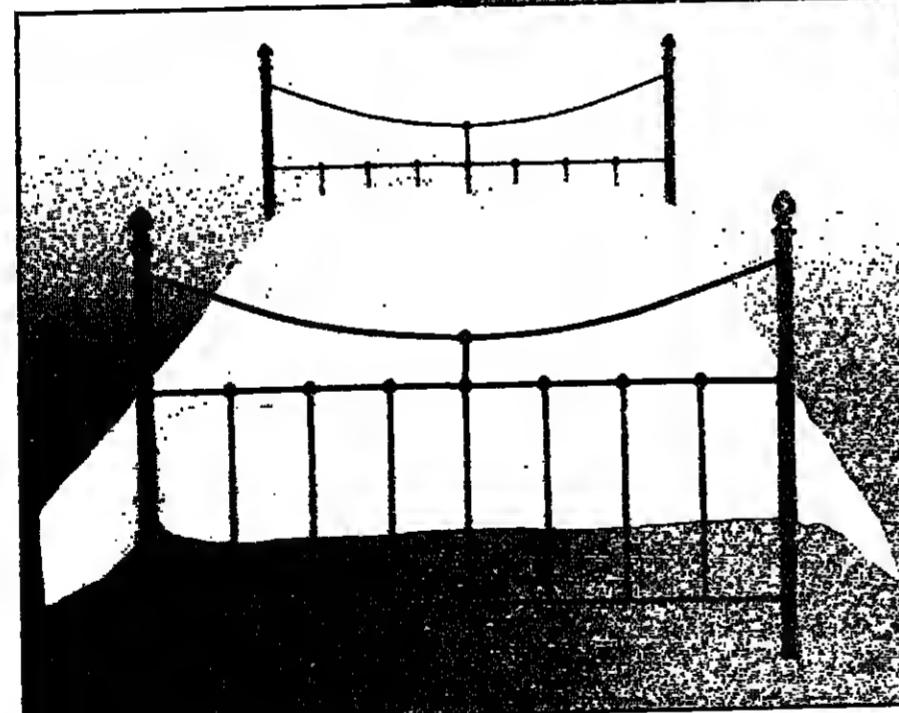
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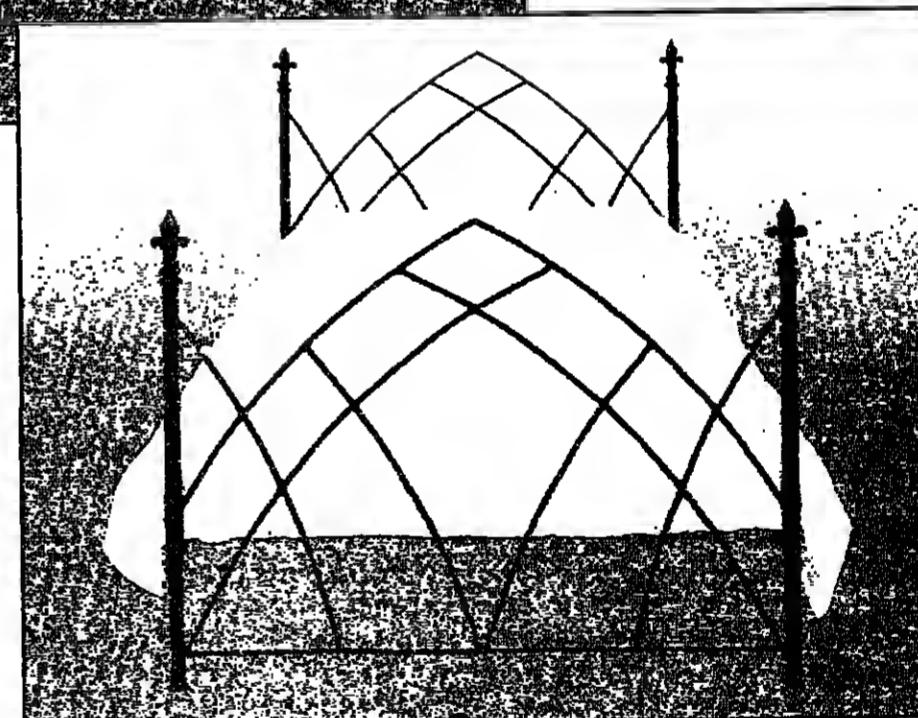


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The Sair Inn, Huddersfield, is a Japanese brewery's idea of a typical British local. A replica will be built on the slopes of Mount Fuji

John Angerson

The BMA annual conference

## Viagra patients will clog hospitals

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

DEMAND FOR Viagra is likely to be so great when it is licensed later this summer that it could cost the National Health Service over £1bn a year and overwhelm the service, doctors warned yesterday.

Efforts to contain the enormous cost could lead to 'sex by postcode' as health authorities ration the drug. Rumours about its beneficial effects on the sexual performance of 'normal' men mean it could become a principal drug of abuse.

The British Medical Association called on the Government to set up an urgent review of the way new, expensive drugs are introduced to prevent a disaster. Speakers at the association's annual conference in Cardiff warned that hospital clinics could become clogged with patients, drug budgets would be exhausted and other services would suffer.

Derek Machin, a consultant urologist from Liverpool, said there was no medical test for impotence but previous treatments which relied on injections into the penis were off-putting and there had therefore been no reason to doubt that men claiming to be impotent were telling the truth.

'We are now faced with an entirely new situation. For the first time we have an oral preparation [a pill] which is perceived as enhancing the performance of already potent men. Viagra will become a major drug of abuse.'

Mr Machin said Viagra was a 'splendid drug' and there was likely to be demand from women as well as men. One in ten men are estimated to suffer from impotence and if only 10 per cent of those were prescribed an average of two

## Physician-aided suicide on agenda

DOCTORS MUST decide whether to support physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients who want to die, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The BMA voted to hold its first conference on the ethics of helping patients to end their lives, despite fears that even discussing it could undermine trust. Speakers at the conference in Cardiff said it was essential doctors reached consensus on an issue that divides society.

Present BMA policy opposes physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. John Marks, the former BMA chairman, said he had hastened the deaths of many patients. 'I have given ... sometimes huge

doses of drugs to ease their pain, knowing full well it might shorten their lives.'

Although he was neither for nor against physician-assisted suicide, he was in favour of a debate.

That view was opposed by doctors who warned that a discussion could be dominated by unrepresentative elements, leading to a 'warped' conclusion. Jonathan Fielden, an anaesthetist from Southampton, said the BMA's policy reflected the opinion of most doctors.

'To hold a debate suggests we are promoting physician-assisted suicide.'

'Whatever the conclusion of that debate is, patients' trust will be shaken.'

## Japanese search for ideal pub ends in Huddersfield

WHEN THE Japanese decided they wanted to re-create the quintessential English pub in their homeland they knew just where to go: Huddersfield.

While the flagstone floors and wood-panelled walls of the 250-year-old Sair Inn, perched on a hilltop in West Yorkshire, will probably look rather strange nesting in the foothills of Mount Fuji, representatives of the Japanese brewery Alph Incorporated were adamant that this was just what they wanted.

Ron Crabtree, 60, the landlord, said yesterday after a visit from the Japanese: 'They must have taken more than 200 pictures of every detail in the pub.'

'They snapped away at the ceilings, walls and floors and all the bottles lined up on the shelves. They even went on their hands and knees taking pictures of the logs of wood we keep under the seats. I'm not sure exactly what they intend to do with all these pictures.'

'Not much was said between us because they didn't speak very good

English. I don't think they wanted to build a replica of the Sair but they wanted to include many of the features in their own pub.'

The Japanese company found the Sair Inn in a good pub guide and, through an interpreter, asked for permission to photograph everything.

Perhaps the only thing they didn't capture on film was the pub ghost, a former landlord said to wander the rooms. Hilary Cooper, Mr Crabtree's partner, says she has seen it.

Mr Crabtree, the landlord for 16

years, is restoring the former one-room pub which was extended into three rooms by taking over a weaver's cottage next door in about 1820. So far he has revealed the original flagstones on the floor as well as the wood-paneling on the walls and is beginning work on the beamed ceilings.

'I'm going to write to them to find out how they are doing,' Mr Crabtree added as he sipped a pint of his own award-winning brew, Linsit.

SOMETIMES  
IT'S EASIER  
TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE  
YOU  
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD STILES



A RELATIONSHIP PHOTOGRAPH

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend.

But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful.

We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

We'll go through it with you

# Call to end school funding 'lottery'

THE SYSTEM of funding schools was condemned by headteachers yesterday as a "complete and utter lottery".

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) said that there were huge discrepancies between the budgets of identical schools in different areas, running into hundreds of thousands of pounds a year.

Figures produced by the association pointed to sharp variations between the highest and lowest school budgets in each region. The NAHT general secretary, David Hart, blamed this on differences in local authority budget decisions and the way central government calculated council spending limits for the problem.

Mr Hart described the system as grossly unfair. "It produces vast disparities in funding which bear absolutely no relation to the cost of delivery," he said.

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent



David Hart urges reform

ering the curriculum in schools across the country."

The association found large discrepancies across the country. In inner London, the most generous authority, Kensington and Chelsea, spends £3,241 per pupil on secondary schools compared with £2,521 for the lowest spender, Wandsworth. That meant that a 1,000-pupil school in Wandsworth was £720,000 worse off than a similar school in Kensington, the NAHT said.

In Yorkshire, Doncaster spends £2,189 per pupil on secondary schools while Bradford spends £1,752.

In a letter to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Mr Hart called on the Government to use its comprehensive

spending review to create a level playing field for schools.

Headteachers want a national funding formula to replace the current system under which local authorities decide school budgets, but are constrained by spending limits imposed by Whitehall.

It emerged last week that

ministers were considering cutting £200m from schools in London to spend on extra resources for those in the north of England.

Mr Hart said: "The curriculum needs to be the same as the needs of another child in a different school. If there are additional needs arising from the socioeconomic problems in an area that should be covered by local discretion."

"We know that David Blunkett has been making a powerful case for substantial additional resources for the next three years via the comprehensive spending review. These are urgently needed if schools are going to meet the standards challenge laid down by the Government between now and the next election. But a reform of the system by which funds reach school budgets is also urgent."

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Russian unrest: The coal industry, a pillar of the Soviet Union, is facing an agonising death under capitalism

## Strikes keep Yeltsin on the wrong track

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

A MINERS' blockade of the Trans-Siberian railway spread to the Russian Arctic North yesterday, compounding Boris Yeltsin's problems on a day which saw another drop in the stock market, a struggling rouble, and signs of further industrial unrest.

The miners, who have stopped freight trains running on the artery for five days, were joined by colleagues in the Komi region, who began blocking a line in a fresh flurry of what has become known as the "rail war". The move came amid signs that the dispute is, if anything, hardening.

Although miners appeared to agree to meet a government commission, a senior government official said there would be no talks until the miners left the tracks.

Several hundred of them, demanding months of back pay and the ousting of President Yeltsin, have been blocking trains in two Siberian towns, Yurga and Anzhero-Sudzhensk along the northern part of the Trans-Siberian line, although passenger trains have been allowed to pass.

So far, regional and national officials, anxious not to provoke confrontation, have been cautious about intervening. But confrontation could be looming. The authorities are increasingly threatening to prosecute, claiming that the dispute is producing heavy losses.

Elsewhere, Russia's crisis widened still further yesterday. Itar-Tass reported that staff at the nuclear centre Arzamas-16 are planning for their first ever indefinite strike.

Stocks were down by more than seven per cent by lunchtime and the rouble came under more heavy pressure on news that British Petroleum had pulled out of the forthcoming auction of Rosneft, the state oil asset from which the government was hoping to raise at least \$1.6bn. A strike by utility workers caused power cuts in Vladivostok.

And Moody's Investment Services said that Russia may need up to \$20bn from the IMF to avoid a default on its short-term debt - at least \$800 more than the Russian government is at present asking for.



Miners coming off their shift to a bleak future. Russia is closing 106 out of its 250 pits, and for the one-company mining communities, that spells death

James Hill

## Miners rage against extinction

THEY DO NOT often laugh in Kizel, a rugged coal town tucked in the foothills of the Ural Mountains. But this, this was really funny. When, we asked, did they last go on holiday to Sochi on the Black Sea - once the seaside playground of the heroes of the Soviet labour force, the summer resort for people like them?

Broad, gold-studded smiles cracked the faces of the dozens of miners who had surrounded us, hoping - in the absence of any credible information from their own government - to find out about their fate from a couple of visiting Western journalists. "Sochi? We haven't been there since the democrats came along 10 years ago", shouted one. He almost jeered as he said "democrats". And the mine workers - chisel-faced bright-eyed men, angry matronly women - laughed knowingly, all over again.

Holidays belong to a category of Kizel humour as black as the coal-stained walls of the woodcock cottages along the low

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Kizel

years, nearly 400,000 jobs have gone. Moscow has decided it can no longer afford to go on pouring money into mines that have long become decrepit and lethal. In 1993, every third ton of coal was paid for by state subsidies. Shut-downs have been under way from Siberia to the Arctic.

For Kizel, an untidy sprawl between hills on a fitful river 700 miles east of Moscow, this amounts to a death warrant. Twelve of the 14 pits in the area have ceased work. This tight-knit, one-company community is doomed to fade from the map. Most state-supported social services, from kindergartens to clinics, were run by the mines themselves; when the mine goes, the rest follows.

The Kizel miners have tried to fight back, following the example set by Siberian miners now blocking the Trans-Siberian railway demanding back wages and the impeachment of President Boris Yeltsin.

They have closed roads, sat on tracks, and placed federal officials under house arrest.

The government has flourished promises, mindful perhaps that it was the coal miners who helped dispatch Mikhail Gorbachev from office in 1991. But in Kizel these promises have meant almost nothing. There is a re-training centre, but it is ensnared in a poverty trap of its own. It is funded by a payroll tax from local companies. The mine closures have forced other firms out of business. So, as the unemployment figures shoot up, and the need for the centre grows, its income oozes.

"It is simply terrible," said Margarita Sashin, one of the centre's officials. "We feel helpless. We have had nothing from the federal government." Sometimes, miners and their families arrive there and collapse in tears, she says.

Only 120 of Kizel's 12,000 redundant miners have found new jobs in the first six months of this year. True, plans are underway for a union-supported pilot scheme in which several thousand miners will get housing certificates enabling them

to move elsewhere to work. This would allow them to buy flats at an 80 per cent discount. But a one-room apartment in Perm - the nearest big city, four hours away by road - costs 80,000 roubles (£8,125), said Ms Sashin. "Twenty per cent of that is ridiculous. No one has that sort of cash here." The average pay for miners is £144 a month.

Chief adviser in the restructuring of Russia's mines is the World Bank. The bank is still recovering ground after a significant chunk of its \$500m (£313m) loan, paid in 1996 in return for promised cuts in the \$1.5bn coal subsidy, went astray. "The money was misused," said Vadim Voronin, deputy head of its Moscow office. "It passed through intermediaries, and was used by commercial banks for a period."

The Kizel miners are less cautious. "It was stolen," said Vladimir Kopitov, who spent a quarter of a century down the mines. He spoke bitterly.

The entity at the root of this corruption was Rosugol, the

state coal monopoly which Mr Yeltsin finally closed down last December. All federal subsidies to the mines went through it.

Although government-controlled, it was a joint stock company managed as a private structure. It could set up its own commercial spin-offs - for instance, insurance companies - into which government cash meant for the mines was funnelled, and invested long enough to accrue interest payments.

Thus, there was a clear incentive to obstruct reform. The less efficient the coal sector was, the more it needed subsidies and the more Rosugol could utilise.

"The system was unacceptable," said Mr Voronin. He estimated that until last year, 40 per cent of the bank's loan was "misused". Yet no one has been prosecuted; most of the Rosugol managers have moved on to new jobs. The World Bank has embarked on a second loan of \$800m. This time, says Mr Voronin, there are tight controls.

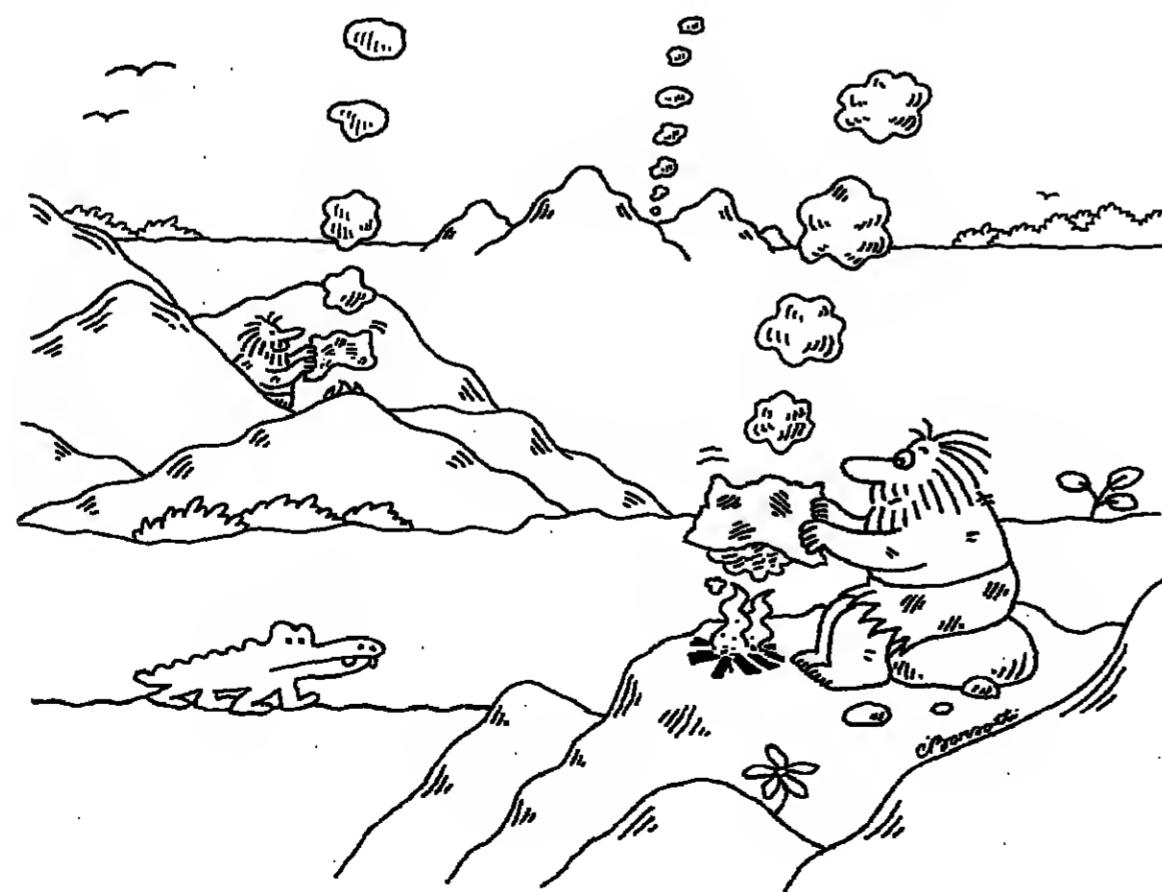
Lurking in the twilight is an army of middlemen - companies

frequently involving mine directors or their relations, which buy coal direct from the pits and sell it on at a profit. The tax police believe middlemen keep as much as one-third of the proceeds from Russia's coal sales, and promise a crack-down.

The future of Russia's unemployed miners could scarcely be more bleak. Their trade unions are weak and often deferential to the government. The public, remembering the miners as the former Soviet Union's molly-coddled elite, is not always supportive. Elsewhere in Russia there have been reports of miners committing suicide.

The Kizel community seems to have little in its arsenal, beyond more protests and threats of unrest. The emphasis is shifting towards the latter. "The Russian people are very patient," said Yuri Gavrilin, 41, a miner for 18 years. "After all, we are the children of people who were sent here by Stalin. But when we act, we do it quickly." The others seemed to agree.

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# Volkswagen finally agrees to pay wartime slave labourers

AFTER DECADES of prevarication, Volkswagen agreed yesterday to pay compensation to Jewish concentration camp victims who were used as slave labour in the German car company's wartime factories.

The move could prove a landmark decision in the fight to win individual compensation for Holocaust victims for the atrocities they suffered in wartime Germany.

Volkswagen made its decision following strong pressure from Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat seeking to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in September's federal election.

BY PETER BILD  
in Bonn

tions. Mr Schröder is premier of Lower Saxony which retains a 20 per cent stake in Volkswagen, Europe's largest car maker, which will soon also own Rolls-Royce.

The company said the VW board had decided to establish what it called a "private fund" to give humanitarian aid to individual victims forced to support the Nazi war machine by building tanks and weapons at VW.

Nearly every big German company, including many of the top names in industry today,

used forced labour from the concentration camps.

The VW action for the first time acknowledges the company's direct responsibility to persecuted individuals it exploited during the Second World War. It marks a sharp reversal of the company's stance.

Earlier, VW and other German companies argued they were not the legal successors of companies operating under the Nazi regime, or insisted compensation must come from the Federal Republic, as the legal successor to Nazi Germany.

The brief VW statement says it is recognising the company's

"historic and moral obligations" to the victims of its wartime activities. Many of those forced to labour for the company in the dying days of the war were Hungarian Jews, many aged only 15 or 16.

They were "selected" to work for VW and the Third Reich from Auschwitz and other concentration camps. One survivor reported that VW officials made the selection.

At Wolfsburg, VW's headquarters, and at other plants Jewish slave labourers were held in concentration camp conditions. VW transports from the camps included Russian

and other Eastern Europeans. Thousand died from their brutal treatment, from malnutrition and later from typhoid as they awaited liberation by advancing British troops.

Yesterday's announcement by VW is the result of a 15-year battle for justice conducted by one man, Klaus von Muenchhausen, who was one year old at the end of the war when he was rescued from Auschwitz by the Allied advance. His Jewish mother died in the gas chambers. He says his battle has been therapeutic for him. Mr Muenchhausen's fight for justice for slave labourers started in

1983 when he sought compensation for former slave workers at a factory in the German Sauerland. He is fighting two legal cases seeking compensation from the Federal government for other slave workers in the courts in Cologne and in the city state of Bremen where he is a research fellow at the State University.

Mr Muenchhausen says his activities and the lawyers employed to fight the cases through the courts are financed by a wealthy German who insists on remaining anonymous.

The VW move surprised Ignatz Bubis, president of the Council of German Jews, who said he remained sceptical. "If they make this gesture it is because if VW lost its case in court it could face claims from possibly tens of thousands of former slave workers living in Eastern Europe," he said.

His hand was strengthened when American lawyers, who are fighting class actions for Holocaust victims against Swiss and German banks, offered to take up the cudgels for slave labourers against VW.

VW has refused to comment on its brief press release. It says details of the fund will be disclosed only in mid-September.

Mr Muenchhausen gave VW and Mr Schröder, who had promised to help, an ultimatum. If VW refused to start paying out money to victims immedi-



A former victim of the Nazi concentration camps holds up his prison shirt during a protest in France

AP

Damascus souk. Shortly afterwards, word reached Western diplomats in Syria that - much to the relief of the government - the old man had died.

Officially, of course, no one could say this, because officially Brunner was not in Syria. President Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna, says she does not know if - after discussing the pressing issues of Syrian-Israeli peace talks and the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon - Mr Chirac will again raise the issue of the man whom the French government itself now believes to be dead.

All in all, a very odd situation: Brunner - who would be 86 if alive - was condemned *in absentia* by a French court; and with the continuing lack of any proof of death, France still demands his extradition. Mr Chirac brought the matter up with Mr Assad when he visited Damascus two years ago, at which time Brunner was almost certainly three years dead.

And the Syrians, of course, still say they know nothing about him. French Jewish groups will certainly try to blight the Syrian leader's visit with the ghost of Alois Brunner.

Alive or dead, why was he allowed to stay in Damascus? Most Middle Eastern states protect war criminals, albeit men of lesser wickedness than Brunner. Egypt still pays pensions to the vicious police agents who tortured prisoners, including Jews, during Nasser's reign.

The two pro-Israeli Lebanese militiamen believed to be responsible for murdering two Irish UN soldiers in 1980 were allowed to pass through Ben Gurion airport at Tel Aviv after the killing, en route for Detroit - where they lived for several years before safely returning home via Israel. Iraq continues to protect agents who killed for the state before Saddam Hussein came to power.

The truth is that police agents, however brutal, have a kind of immunity. If they were made to account for their crimes, however terrible, how would intelligence men loyal to a new government be certain they too might not be made to pay for their sins when power peacefully changed hands? Even after death, it seems, they are safe.

Safer, perhaps, than the

"peace process" - whose death is only acknowledged by France. The French government has spoken more loudly than any other European administration about the danger of an imminent "explosion" in the Middle East and largely blamed Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, for the crisis. By inviting President Assad to Paris, Mr Chirac is trying to ensure France's central role in the region's politics - as an *interlocuteur valable* of more use to the Arabs now than the United States. By coming to Paris, despite the protests of French Jewish groups, President Assad is helping to give France that role.

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## Japan's dark secrets surface in garden

FROM THE surface of the earth, nowhere looks less sinister than Toyama Park in Shinjuku Ward, in central Tokyo. It is an unremarkable little place of trees and gravel, where workers take their sandwiches and old ladies walk poodles.

But the ground beneath contains a horrible secret. Over the last few months bureaucrats, politicians and local people have been passing it from one to the other: a hot potato no one wishes to grasp.

The story begins more than 60 years ago as the Japanese

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
in Tokyo

Imperial Army marched through Manchuria. In the city of Harbin, a special division was established, officially called the Prevention of Epidemics and Water Supply Section, but more often known as Unit 731.

Its function was to develop and test biological and chemical weapons, including anthrax and bubonic plague.

The park is about to be dug up for the construction of a public sports ground. The project will involve excavating the site where

search: experiments on live prisoners, who were deliberately infected and dissected while they were still alive.

Most of the human experiments took place in Harbin but, according to the accounts of former Unit 731 members, experiments were also carried out in the Imperial Army's medical college and research headquarters - now the site of Toyama Park.

The park is about to be dug up for the construction of a public sports ground. The project will involve excavating the site where

human experiments are believed to have taken place, threatening to bring the whole, horrible episode literally up to the surface. For Toyama Park is a mass grave. Nine years ago, 200 bodies, from several Asian races, were dug up from a nearby construction site. Former employees claim that on the site of the park, in the brief period after the Japanese surrender and before the US occupation, the bodies of the murdered human guinea pigs were buried.

Estimates of the numbers killed by Unit 731 in Manchuria

range from 3,000 to 30,000. Most were Chinese. They included Koreans, Russians, Americans, French and Britons. The youngest were just babies. The "logs", as they were referred to by their captors, were cut open while conscious and their organs removed. For decades, Japan refused to acknowledge the existence of Unit 731, until the Eighties, when increasing numbers of elderly former members of the unit began speaking out.

The truth is that police agents, however brutal, have a kind of immunity. If they were made to account for their crimes, however terrible, how would intelligence men loyal to a new government be certain they too might not be made to pay for their sins when power peacefully changed hands? Even after death, it seems, they are safe.

Safer, perhaps, than the

## IN BRIEF

### Berlusconi given two years' jail

A COURT in Milan convicted the media mogul and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi of bribing tax inspectors and sentenced him to two years and nine months' jail. It came after more than two years of trial for Berlusconi, who is leader of Italy's centre-right opposition.

### Serbs claim Kosovo success

SERB POLICE fighting ethnic Albanian insurgents in a village near one of Kosovo's largest cities forced them to retreat, Serb sources said. The pro-government Serb Media Centre said the Kosovo Liberation Army retreated from Ljubljana, near Pec.

### Sub puts satellite into orbit

A RUSSIAN nuclear submarine successfully launched a German research satellite from the Barents Sea. The *Noromoskov*, from the Northern Fleet, launched a booster which put the *Tubsat-N* satellite into orbit.

### Bridge collapse kills 25

AS MANY as 25 people are feared dead after a bridge under construction collapsed in South Africa's eastern Mpumalanga province.

### Christians detained in Riyadh

TEN CHRISTIANS are being held in jail in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, for possessing bibles and preaching Christian scripture, an independent Vatican news agency, Fides, said yesterday.

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## UN upgrades Palestine status

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Although British diplomats are describing the changes as "technical" and deliberately framed in such a way as not to worsen tensions in the region, they are an unmistakable signal of the impatience of most of the rest of the world at the blocking tactics of the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, which have brought what passes for the Middle East peace process to a standstill.

But its basic observer status, which it has enjoyed since 1974, will stay. This means that the Palestinians will still not be entitled to vote or put up candidates for election to UN posts.

Upgrading the PLO's status now, says Dore Gold, Israel's UN ambassador, "pre-empts the outcome of the permanent status negotiations" and could drastically change the role of the PLO in the UN's deliberations. But that objection will cut little ice with the vast bulk of UN members who point out that the original target of May 1999 for a "final settlement" is, to all intents and purposes, dead and buried, thanks to Mr Netanyahu.

The upgrading, whereby the PLO delegation would rank ahead of other observers and be granted six seats in the Assembly chamber, is small beer compared to what might happen if Yasser Arafat goes through with his threat to de-

clare an independent Palestine on Gaza and the West Bank next May, assuming the "final settlement" has not been reached.

Israel's certain reaction would be to annex the territories - a step which could detonate a new Middle East war in Israel itself. pressure is mounting for Mr Netanyahu finally to make up his mind on the latest American plan to break the deadlock.

Two right-wing cabinet ministers have said a decision is necessary "within days" on whether to agree to Washington's proposal of withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in return for solid guarantees on security from Mr Arafat.

لبنان من الأصل

## Fighting spirit of a town so bad they named it twice

"PEOPLE DRIVING down the freeway will often stop and ask where all the casinos are," said Joan Snider, a reporter on the venerable daily newspaper the *Las Vegas Optic* (circulation: 6,500).

No matter that Las Vegas, Nevada, is a long day's drive to the west. "We kind of quit being surprised how ignorant people can be," she says caustically.

Welcome to the other Las Vegas, a weird time-capsule of old New Mexico where dogs howl at the peeling bells in the Catholic churches, and there's not a casino in sight. Its full name is *Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de Las Vegas, Our Lady of Sorrows of the Meadows*.

"That is the other Las Vegas," declares Anne Bradford, a native of Sussex and the proprietor of The Carriage House Bed and Breakfast, set in a stately 19th-century home. "This is the original, founded in 1835."

Las Vegas is a loaded phrase in popular culture, says Melanie LaBorwit, the curator of the city mu-

### AMERICAN TIMES LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

seum. But few people stop to think what the Spanish means – the meadows. It has fed local suspicion that the desert gambling meccas an eminently 20th-century city, pinched its name from here.

Nevada's Las Vegas was founded at a time when its namesake in New Mexico was a famous – or notorious – frontier boom town. When Melanie LaBorwit's uncle writes to her, he puts the words "New Mexico" in big, red capitals. The mail still goes to Nevada. Las Vegas residents actually struggle under what in American parlance is a "double whammy".

Residents here insist that many Americans, particularly in the East, do not even realize that New Mexico is part of the United States. That comes as some surprise to those of us that assumed every American school child could at least recite the names of the 50 states. When Joan

Snider was wiring money here from California for the downpayment on a house, for example, senior staff at a local bank told her they couldn't locate the overseas banking code.

An encounter with Las Vegas itself is apt to leave an outsider dazed and confused. Off the beaten tourist track, it has largely escaped the flood of wealthy émigrés that has transformed nearby Santa Fe into an arty and expensive destination for the California crowd, a process the locals call "Californication".

The town sits on the point where the Rockies end and the vast flatness of the great plains begins. The heart sinks as you approach through the usual strip of motels and mini-malls. But a sign to the old town winds through to the plaza where there is a bandstand encircled by trees, and a row of 19th-century brick buildings that look like

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A sign of the times in 19th century Las Vegas

the false front of a Western movie set.

After its days as a violent pioneer city on the Santa Fe trail, attracting the likes of Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp, and then as a bustling rail head, Las Vegas went into a kind of cold storage, bypassed first by the freeways, then by the airlines. The town has 900 listed historic build-

ings. They stand preserved, it is said, because the city's economy died, and no one had the money to tear them down.

Las Vegas has never recovered, and there is still an abandoned air about the place. Unemployment stays high, with local businesses hobbled by poor water supplies and a short tourist season.

The original settlers here were not the American cowboys, but Spanish colonists, with 29 families given a grant of land by Mexico in 1835. For most of this century, Las Vegas was actually divided into two rival cities – older and Hispanic West Las Vegas, with the newer and Anglo Las Vegas.

Separated by the Galinas river, they were not formally joined until 1970. It is the Spanish influence that still shapes much of the local culture.

Appearances apart, the city operates on a profoundly different dynamic from the rest of the West. Independence Day is celebrated here with *caballeros* (horsemen) and *mariachi* bands, kicking off with a Catholic mass and presided over by La Reina de la Fiesta, the local beauty queen.

At the local college – the main employer, along with a state mental hospital – nearly three-quarters of the students are Hispanic. Older people speak a Spanish dialect particular to the area. It contains

words like "traje", the past tense of "to bring", instead of "traje", the contemporary word. Linguists say these words are found in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, signs of an antique Spanish that was largely isolated from outside change.

Other mysteries abound. In the remote rural villages round Las Vegas, people say they still follow Easter walks behind Penitentes, a secretive Catholic brotherhood of men who beat themselves on holy occasions, though the practice is slowly dying out.

Some families in this heavily Catholic community, it is said, have long kept another kind of secret – that their forefathers were actually Jews who fled to the colonies of New Spain and then went underground in the face of Catholic persecution.

Las Vegas, New Mexico, could not be more different from its Nevada cousin. But as a largely undiscovered slice of Americana, it is easily its rival.

TIM CORNWELL



Schoolchildren hold anti-smoking signs at the Great American SmokeScream in Massachusetts, one of many recent demonstrations against the tobacco industry

Susan Walsh/AP

## Sick smokers in massive lawsuit

By PHIL DAVISON in Miami

THE COUGHED and they wheezed, some even inhaled deeply from tiny oxygen tanks they had brought into a packed Miami courtroom yesterday. They were among an estimated half a million lung-damaged residents of Florida who hope to squeeze billions of dollars out of the big tobacco companies.

It is the first class-action suit by sick smokers ever to come to trial. It involves the largest number of claimants and potentially the largest-ever payout, in the billions of dollars.

And it is the biggest courtroom test for "Big Tobacco" since a proposed pact with the government, aimed at ending America's tobacco war, fell apart earlier this year.

Hundreds of claimants and spectators squeezed into the Miami-Dade district courthouse to follow the selection of a pool of 66 jurors, a process likely to take several weeks as a result of entrenched opinions and widespread publicity over

month, citing irregularities in the original finding. The award to Grady Carter in 1994 had been billed as a "milestone" by the anti-tobacco movement because it was only the second time a jury had awarded damages in a smoking liability case.

But after the successful appeal, the cigarette maker involved, Brown and Williamson, described the ruling as "a major victory" and predicted it would affect the outcome of more than 500 individual lawsuits still pending in the US.

In this latest case, the tobacco lawyers argue that the number of claimants is too high for one case to cover. The lawyers arguing for the claimants began their case with one emphysema sufferer, Dr Howard Engle, in 1994, but then widened the mandate to include any smoking-related sick resident of Florida. The tobacco lawyers argue that most of these moved to the state after they became sick and should not be included.

## France takes the knife to exploding health budget

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

was declared unconstitutional earlier this year.

The ruling, by the constitutional council, left France without a strategy for controlling a health budget which is now the third largest in the world.

France spends 9.8 per cent of its GNP on health – in other words almost one franc of every 10 francs it earns. This compares to 14.2 per cent in the United States, 10.4 per cent in Germany and 6.9 per cent in Britain.

The deficit on the public health budget this year is supposed to be pegged at 1.1 per cent but the scrapping of the Juppé controls threatens to shatter this figure.

Ms Aubry has announced a series of negotiations with all branches of the medical profession and the health industry to try to find other ways of controlling spending before

the end of the year. She has warned that some system of penalties on doctors, more "flexible" than those imposed by Mr Juppé, will be introduced if the negotiations fail.

In particular, Ms Aubry wants to be the first person to stop the French from guzzling so much expensive medicine.

Here, she runs into the fundamental generosity and freedom of the French health system. French people can change doctors as they please and even visit specialists without prior consultation with GPs. Fees are refunded by the state within an approved scale.

Doctors who refuse to prescribe a satisfyingly high number of drugs find that their patients migrate to those doctors who do.

The Juppé plan introduced inducements to encourage patients to abandon this so-called "nomadism" and stick with one doctor. This sensible idea was also rejected by the constitutional council.

Aubry wants to give high-street chemists the power to issue cheaper generic medicines in the place of branded medicines prescribed by doctors.

In the longer term, she wants to encourage patients and doctors to demanding and prescribing fewer medicines.

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## MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

Over one million people in southern Sudan are facing the real threat of starvation. The war has forced people from their homes and land and two years of drought have devastated crops. Médecins Sans Frontières medical teams are running nutrition centres in the worst-affected areas, feeding the most vulnerable, especially children and their mothers. Malnourished people need special feeding mixes, containing vital nutrients. Our teams care for the most severe cases around the clock. MSF is also providing seeds to help people provide for themselves in future. The only long-term solution to the southern Sudan tragedy is peace. But we can't sit back and wait – people need your help now.



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IND 87

## US military hit by new sex scandal

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

eastern Europe until a year ago, had also permitted government funds to be used for travel by a mistress, and made "false and misleading statements" to investigators.

The inquiry was instituted earlier this year following accusations by Donnamaria Carpino, wife of one of Gen Hale's subordinates, that he had blackmailed her into a sexual relationship. Ms Carpino, who is now divorced, said the general had promised to protect her husband from, unproven, allegations of adultery if she agreed to a "sexual commitment".

She went public with her accusations in March, after Gen Hale – then promoted to the US Army's deputy head of personnel – had been permitted to retire with full honours a month into the investigation of his con-

duct. She and her ex-husband joined forces to protest against the decision, recounting their experience in the right-wing *Washington Times*, a television interview yesterday. Ms Carpino described Gen Hale's conduct as "psychological rape".

The Pentagon's inquiry established that Ms Carpino was one of four women who were the subject of improper attention from Gen Hale during his two-year assignment in Izmir.

Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat Congresswoman from New York, who has been active in pursuit of sexual misconduct complaints in the military, said that the findings and the way they had come out confirmed her "worst suspicions".

Gen Hale, she said, "is retired somewhere, fat and happy, while others who are accused of much lesser crimes face court martial[s] (sic), public humiliation and financial ruin."

Earlier this year, the former top enlisted man in the US Army, Sgt Gene McKinney, was forced to retire early after being court-martialed on multiple counts of sexual harassment, only one of which was proved. Last year, Kelly Flynn, the first female B-52 pilot, was given a dishonourable discharge after lying about an affair with the civilian husband of another soldier. Both insisted that senior officers facing similar accusations were permitted to continue their service or retire with honour.

The outcry that followed these cases led the Pentagon to give an undertaking that no officer would be permitted to retire while an investigation was in progress.

Yesterday, the Pentagon said Gen Hale would be punished if the criminal investigation which it has now instigated showed "significant" misconduct.

The inquiry concluded that General David Hale, who was deputy commanding general of Nato land forces in south-

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E-mail: [IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk](mailto:IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk)

# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Lloyd's settles over HQ repairs

A LONG-RUNNING row between Lloyd's of London and the builders of its revolutionary "inside out" headquarters building on Lime Street has been settled. The architect, Sir Richard Rogers, engineer Ove Arup and contractor Bovis are understood to have paid an undisclosed sum to Lloyd's covering the costs of refurbishment work. Lloyd's was believed to be looking for up to £12m after it had to replace outside service pipes.

Lloyd's officials refused to give details about the settlement, citing confidentiality. Claims were also settled against Hadden Young and Senior Construction Services.

### Shares in housebuilder plunge

HOUSEBUILDER The Berkeley Group yesterday saw its shares fall steeply as investors took fright over possible interest-rate rises and a downturn in the housing market. The shares fell 30.5p to 585p despite chairman Graham Roper predicting a "soft landing" for house prices. Berkeley's profits grew by 34 per cent to £100.3m in the year to 30 April while profits at estate agents Savills rose 49 per cent to £11.3m. Savills' 870 staff shared windfall payments totalling £14.6m.

*Savills report, page 19. Berkeley: Investment, page 21*

### Victor Kiam takes over at Ronson

THE UPHEAVAL at Ronson, the troubled lighters and sunglasses group, continued yesterday when Victor Kiam, the colourful US entrepreneur, took over as executive chairman. His move follows the resignation of chief executive Richard Purse and his deputy Lars Rydstrom.

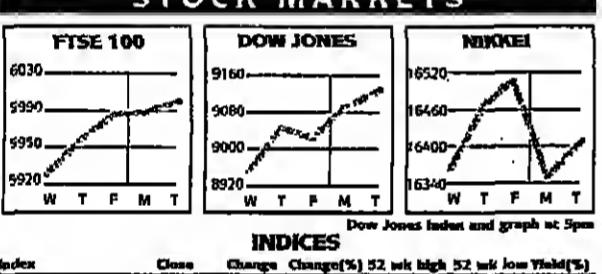
Mr Kiam, who once famously bought Remington, the razor blade maker, because he liked its product so much, was brought in as non-executive chairman earlier this year after he helped to guarantee Ronson's bank overdraft. The company, which warned in May that it expected to make a loss of around £1.5m, is trying to put together a refinancing package. Ronson has been reeling ever since Howard Hodgson, the former funeral parlour king, resigned as chief executive last year.

### P&O faces £200m EU fine

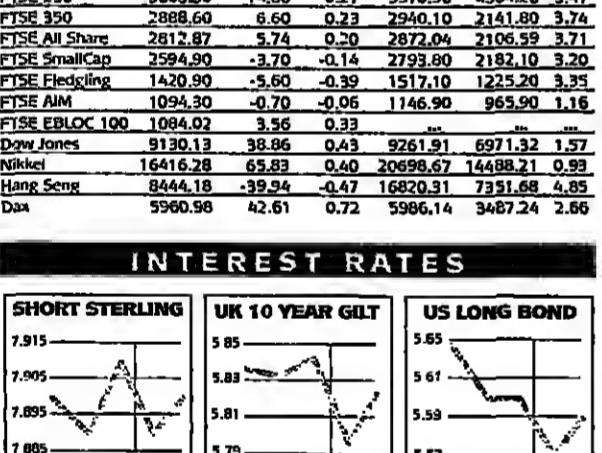
P&O could be heading for a £200m fine from the European Union over allegations of price fixing in the North Atlantic container freight markets. But the shipping company would contest any fine in the courts, said broker Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which met the company earlier this week.

DKB maintained its full-year 1998 pre-tax profit forecast at £440m despite the possible EU fine and continuing poor freight earnings in Asian markets.

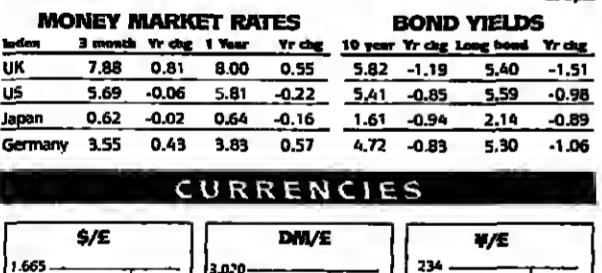
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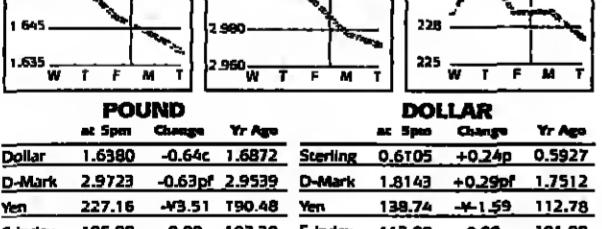
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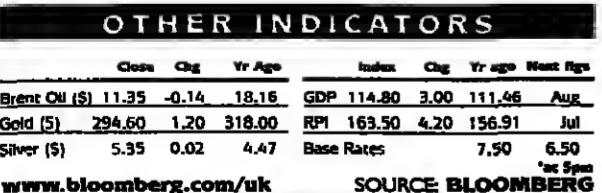
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Gold (S)	294.60	1.20	318.00	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91 Jul
Silver (S)	5.35	0.02	4.47	5 Index	112.80	0.00	101.90
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Finland	8.7961						
France	9.6249						
Germany	2.8857						
Greece	4.7722						
Holland	3.2436						
Hong Kong	12.26						
Ireland	1.1365						
Italy	2845.00						
source: Einstel							

## Home of RAF sold to escape front-line cuts

THE MINISTRY of Defence yesterday sold part of Farnborough airfield to the property company Slough Estates as part of the Government's drive to raise £1bn a year from asset sales.

Slough is to take over a 180-acre site containing the original headquarters of the Royal Air Force and a number of listed buildings, including one of the UK's first wind tunnels. It is investing £250m to redevelop the land, regarded as the

largest available commercial site in the M3 corridor.

The MoD has the biggest land bank of any Whitehall department and disposals are currently raising about £350m a year, helping offset budget cuts for front line forces.

Slough said it planned to develop 1.6 million sq ft of office space at Farnborough. The site is adjacent to the Farnborough

Aerodrome, home of the airshow, which has been sold to the Swiss company Tag Hauer.

Hillier Parker, which handled the sale on behalf of the Defence Estate Organisation, the MoD's property arm, said it had received 11 bids, of which seven were shortlisted. One of two main agents for the DEO, it is handling 3,000 acres of MoD land currently up for sale.

The drive to increase revenues from property sales fol-

lows the publication last November of the National Asset Register, a 546-page Domesday Book of the state's £300bn asset portfolio, listing everything from stud farms and artillery ranges to highland crofts and works of art and motorway service stations.

Nicola Maxted, a partner with Hillier Parker, said: "The MoD has always brought forward land for sale when it was deemed surplus to require-

ments. Sometimes there are not many buyers around, for instance in the early Nineties. But just now, by a happy coincidence for the Chancellor, the market is more buoyant."

The £1bn worth of Whitehall asset sales, coupled with a further £2.75bn of local authority asset sales a year, are designed to help Mr Brown achieve his target of increasing public spending in real terms by 2.25 per cent a year while balancing

the budget.

There have also been suggestions that the Foreign Office's vast overseas property portfolio, including more than 1,000 apartments, 136 offices and 157 residences, may be ripe for asset-stripping.

Other government depart-

ments with healthy portfolios

that could be exploited include

Culture, Media and Sport,

which owns Trafalgar Square, Marble Arch, 58 statues in Lon-

don and all its prime museums.

## Rover warns strong pound may force a move overseas

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ROVER warned yesterday that it may have to move future model production abroad if sterling remains at its present high level.

The car maker, taken over by BMW of Germany in 1994, also said it was conducting an immediate review of its £4bn component spend to see whether it could source more parts from overseas suppliers.

Rover, Britain's biggest car maker, employs 40,000 people directly, but a total of 300,000 UK jobs depend on the company's operations. Any move to scale back component purchases or car production would have a severe impact.

"The high value of the pound is affecting our competitiveness abroad and this is serious because we export about 57 per cent of our cars," said a Rover spokesman. "In the long term you have to consider manufacturing abroad."

Rover stressed there was no intention to shift existing production, adding that the jobs of its 35,000 strong manufacturing workforce, the Longbridge, Cowley and Solihull car plants, and the £600m annual investment programme were all secure.

Now is the company's immediate model renewal programme about to change. A replacement for the Rover 600-800 series, codenamed the R40, is to go into production later this year after a £400m investment

at Cowley. The successor to the Mini, due out in 2000, will still be built at Longbridge, creating 1,000 jobs.

But one company source

said that if the choice of where

to make the new Mini were

being made today, the UK would

not be the automatic favourite

because of the strong pound.

An unnamed company executive, quoted in the latest edition of *Auto Express Magazine*, said the strength of sterling had plunged Rover into a "crisis".

He added: "The current situation is so serious that we have to consider the possibility of building abroad."

But yesterday the company

sought to temper those re-

marks. "We are not in a crisis

at the moment nor are we look-

ing to see if we can move pro-

duction in the near or medium

term. But the pound is way

overvalued and it is hurting us.

It is a serious situation."

Dr Walter Hasselkus, the

chief executive of Rover, has

cautioned before that the

strength of sterling could force

a review of component pur-

chasing. Between 80 and 90 per

cent of each Rover car is local

content, but this figure could

come down to 70 to 75 per cent.

The engine for the new Mini

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Kaufmann



20 week										52 week										52 week									
High	Low	Stock	Price	Ctg	Th	PE	Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Ctg	Th	PE	Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Ctg	Th	PE	Code						
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b> 2.9 15.5																				<b>52 week</b>									
<b>BEER</b> 3.5 10.0																				<b>52 week</b>									
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887 778 Brabourne	150	10 10 25 28	113	63	20	30	Gloucester	114	10 45 39 107	157	97	97	100	61	24	35	210	1000	157	10 10 5 5	50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	
888 775 Gloucestershire	800	20 20 20 20	2799	21	11	11	H&P Over	16	10 45 62 108	157	97	97	100	61	24	35	210	1000	157	10 10 5 5	50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	
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891 158 Banks	115	10 10 10 10	10	10	10	10	Hornbeam	20	10 45 45 74	157	97	97	100	61	24	35	210	1000	157	10 10 5 5	50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	100 50 50 50 50	1992	
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904 159 Boddingtons	150	10 10 25 28	113	63	20	30	Hornbeam	150	10 40 45 74	157	97	97	100	61	24	35	210	1000	157</										

# Footsie defies the gathering gloom

FOOTSY CONTINUES to defy the bears who forecast a summer of stock market discontent. For the first time for a month the index was above 6,000 points, scoring its fifth consecutive gain.

Telecoms and computers were again prominent, BT, for the first time, charged through 800p, gaining 14p to 805p.

Against a background of economic slowdown and a possible interest rate increase this week, the market is surprisingly buoyant.

However, some market men believe shares are merely reflecting progress made in other western markets. "It's quite a curmudgeonly market - it does not really want to go higher," said one broker.

Supporting this view is Footsie's tendency to close well below its best level of the day. Yesterday it was at one time 46.3 higher. It ended 13.1 up at 6,003.4. The index is now just over 100 points below its peak.

The Stock Exchange's link with Deutsche Börse could also have helped sentiment; it indicates an attempt to end Nasdaq's European ambitions by creating Europe's central market.

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK  
PAIN

The mid cap index also made headway but the bottom seems to have dropped out of the shares of smaller companies. The small cap index once again gave ground, falling 3.7 to 2,594.9. In May it was riding at 2,592.73 peak.

ScottishPower led Footsie, scoring a 66p gain to 620p as the market continued to throw off its blinkered view that it was merely an electricity group with a telecoms sideline. Excited talk that the generator's telecoms operation could be another Energen floated from

National Grid is powering the shares.

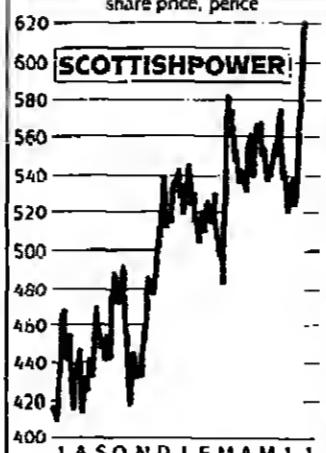
Orange, up 31p to 738p, and Vodafone, 11.5p to 831.5p, were other telephone groups in demand. Racal Electronics, following its deal with Cott Telecom, dialed a further 21.5p to 421.5p to talk it in the running to win a London Underground telephone deal. Securicor, with a minority stake in Cellnet, was another to attract attention, up 25p to 550p. The cable duo, Telewest, up 8p to 186p, and General Cable, 12p to 293.5p, were others on the highway.

Among the computer high risers were Misys, 125p to 3,525p, and Sema, 41p to 789p.

But as hi-tech shares blossomed some of those in more traditional industries, such as brewing, wilted. Scottish & Newcastle, the country's biggest brewer, fell 28p to 728p. Bass was flat at 1,104p, off 16p, and Whitbread lost 30p to 930p.

Worries about today's S&N trading statement appeared to be responsible for the unease. The figures are expected to be good enough, say, £430m against £274m. England's relatively early dismissal

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



from the World Cup is another inhibiting influence.

The market seemed to wake up to pub chain JD Wetherspoon's failure, because of its ban on TV sets, to enjoy any of the World Cup activity, lowering the shares 15p to 277.5p.

Marks & Spencer, down 8.5p to 537.5p, was ruffled by a modest CSFB downgrading. The invest-

ment house has trimmed from £1,06bn to £1,06bn. Debenhams, the department store chain, fell 8p to 301.5p. Worries that it will issue a profits warning have dragged the shares from around 400p in the past month. A trading statement due soon should be reasonably upbeat and out, as some suggest, disappointing.

BT Alex Brown lifted a construction industry forecast. It raised its expectations for AMEC for this year from 260m to 285m and next from £70m to £73m.

Railtrack's decision to sell some London offices kept the shares on the express line, up 52p to a 515p peak. British Airways, drawing comfort from the feeling that its deal with American Airlines will eventually go through, rose a further 14p to 703p.

United Assurance was briskly traded, up 28p to 586.5p, and the commodities group ED&F Man rose 21p to 342p.

Coats Viyella, the struggling textile group, held at 75p by Bass, a US investment group, declared a 3.6 per cent stake.

Two newcomers made firm

debuts. Sporting & Outdoor Media moved from a 75p placing to 92.5p after 97.5p. Policy Master, an insurance technology group, went from a 130p placing to 204.5p.

Cliveden, the hotel group, fell 3.5p to 92.5p as Goldman Sachs abandoned takeover plans, leaving the way clear for a consortium involving computer tycoon Bill Gates.

Tinsley Robor, the packaging group, collected its long-awaited bid, 218p a share, after the market closed. The shares were 184p.

Ahead of figures, Shield Diagnostic rose 60p to 582.5p but British Biotech, the struggling drugs group, again suffered a wounding session, falling 3p to 30p, trading was brisk.

IMS, with interim results due soon, held at 106.5p. The telephone services group seems to have been ignored in the telecoms upsurge. It offers such services as automated call handling, voicemail and find-me-anywhere personal numbers.

SEAG VOLUME: 893.1m  
SEAG TRADES: 67,734  
GILTS INDEX: n/a

FIRESTONE DIAMONDS, a South African explorer and miner, is on its way to AIM. It is planning to raise £5m, selling shares at 11.4p through the stockbrokers LA Pritchard and Burrough Johnston.

The AIM success of Petra Diamonds, floated at 30p and now 132.5p (after 153.5p), prompted Firestone to raise cash through the junior market. It has already made two private placings in this country. After the share sale directors will control around 60 per cent of the capital. The company already has a profitable diamond mining operation as well as exploration projects.

DUE TO arrive on the fringe Oxf market today is Coronation International Mining, with diamond and zinc interests in West Africa. Shares have been sold at 20p, providing a £5m market capitalisation. A property company called Coronation Trading has 37 per cent.

## No need to run for cover this time

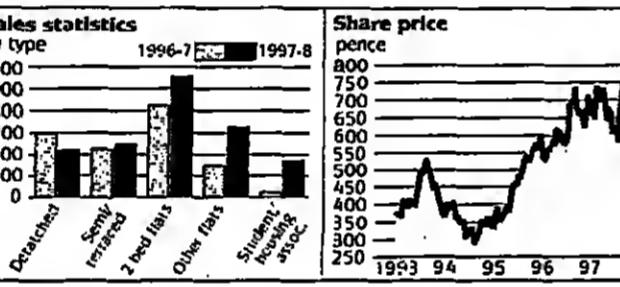
### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### BERKELEY GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £725.9m, share price: 585p (10.30p)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	228.1	283.4	334.3	485.3	600.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	39.5	37.6	43.4	75.1	110.3
Earnings per share (p)	31.4	30.2	33.3	49.3	60.6
Dividends per share (p)	6.5	7.2	8.1	9.1	10.3



#### Re-inventing John Menzies

AFTER 18 months as chief executive of John Menzies, the news and logistics business, no one can accuse David Mackay of inaction. Having signalled his intention to pull out of retailing, he has offloaded the Menzies retail chain to WH Smith for £52m and put a rocket under the woefully performing Early Learning Centre with a view to demerging or selling it.

His plan is to re-invent Menzies as a logistics and services business that undertakes prosaic functions like baggage handling in airports. This may be dull but, according to the City, it is worthy. After several years of dramatic under-performance which saw the shares hit a low of 35.5p in February, Menzies shares have risen steadily, improving by another 6p yesterday to close at 54.5p.

Mr Mackay is hoping Menzies' logistics business will match the size of its wholesale distribution division within seven years.

The slump in losses of £28.6m last year was due to highly exceptional charges and the losses at ELC, which is now improving.

On Dresser Kleinwort Benson's current-year profit forecasts of £33m, Menzies is trading on a forward rating of 12. That is a premium rating in a sector out of favour.

But the shares are a decent hold as Menzies looks a good management story and a steady business in a difficult economic environment.

He was unveiled results for the year to March which comfortably beat City expectations. Pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £100m, well ahead of the £90m predicted at the time of last October's £125m rights issue.

Turnover rose from £485m to £600m and the dividend was increased 12.6 per cent to 10.25p. Completions increased from 2,222 to 3,056 units but average selling prices were down from £218,000 to £193,000.

Menzies has moved away from its upmarket niche of detached houses on green-field sites. It now prides itself on city-centre conversions and developing contaminated or used land.

Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, thinks that Menzies will make pre-tax profits of £120m this year, putting the shares on a forward multiple of nine times. That is a fairly dismal rating, but, given the sector and the London factor, it's fair. Hold.

#### London liability for Berkeley

BERKELEY used to be something of a favourite for many investors otherwise frightened by the house-building sector, even during good times. The company benefited from having three-quarters of its activi-

ties focused on the South and South-east of the country where house prices were soaring.

But Berkeley's premium rating has been eroded of late and the shares plunged a further 30.5p to 585p yesterday. The group's London focus is now seen as a liability with house prices falling faster in the capital than anywhere else.

The company remains optimistic, insisting it is re-inventing projects from Cardiff to Liverpool. An economic downturn might round the corner but there will be a "soft landing" for the new homes market, says Graham Roper, chairman.

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#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	0-Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6109	0.6120	0.6141	0.5367
Australia	2.6389	2.6264	2.6264	1.6128	1.6128	1.6128	1.5269
Austria	20.857	20.778	20.778	1.7078	1.7078	1.7078	1.6269
Belgium	61.265	61.052	61.052	3.7165	3.7165	3.7165	3.6268
Canada	2.4028	2.3928	2.3928	1.4722	1.4722	1.4722	1.4614
Denmark	11.3118	11.2844	11.2844	6.9150	6.9060	6.8884	6.7119
ECU	1.5020	1.4975	1.4975	1.4885	1.4885	1.4885	1.4804
Finland	9.0286	8.9965	8.9965	0.8511	0.8511	0.8511	0.8074
France	9.9556	9.9258	9.9258	1.8143	1.8109	1.8046	1.0000
Germany	466.75	469.84	469.84	303.49	305.29	306.64	292.22
Greece	12.6811	12.6811	12.6811	1.6511	1.6511	1.6511	1.6500
Hong Kong	1.1793	1.1781	1.1781	1.3870	1.3870	1.3870	1.7650
Ireland	29.2582	29.1910	29.1910	1.7875	1.7846	1.7846	1.9523
Italy	29.2582	29.1910	29.1910	1.3873	1.3809	1.3809	1.6455
Japan	6.6270	6.6270	6.6270	4.1710	4.1690	4.1690	4.0314
Malaysia	6.8735	6.8735	6.8735	4.0267	4.0267	4.0267	4.0267
Mexico	14.6553	13.3479	13.3479	3.1724	3.1724	3.1724	3.1724
Netherlands	3.3479	3.3358	3.3358	2.0145	2.0145	2.0145	1.9873
New Zealand	3.1413	3.1413	3.1413	2.5211	2.5197	2.5197	2.4784
Norway	12.6241	12.6241	12.6241	1.7105	1.7065	1.7025	1.6715
Portugal	3.0252	3.0144	3.0144	1.8578	1.8578	1.8578	1.8578
Singapore	6.1332	6.1168	6.1168	1.6945	1.6945	1.6945	1.6926
South Africa	0.1076	0					

## SPORT

## Australia desperate for on-pitch direction

THE STATISTICS aren't pretty. Played seven, lost seven; 88 points for, 328 points against. Right from when the "thick heads" (no doubt coach Clive Woodward) will be asked by the Rugby Football Union to explain his interesting choice of words on his return, decided that England were going to undertake their tour to the southern hemisphere, it was always going to be a disaster. Even with a full strength side it was going to be tough.

Let's leave the poor, old, battered English line-up for the moment and have a look at the teams that they played against as they prepare to face one another in the Tri-Nations series.

Australia are at an interesting stage of development. They have for a few seasons now promised so much, but delivered relatively little.



MICHAEL LYNAGH

That may sound surprising after a 76-0 victory over the Pommies, but although Australia have won matches, they have not put in the performance on the pitch which matches the calibre of players in the team.

The stand-off problem seems to have been solved. Stephen Larkham is a wonderful rugby player and be orchestrated things beautifully in the games against the Scots and the English. It will be interesting to see how he copes with the pressure that the All Blacks and South Africa are bound to apply.

The reason for the Wallabies' lack-lustre performances over the past few seasons, is the lack of direction from the coach. The individual players, particularly in the backs, are capable of the most extraordinary things on the field, the most intricate set moves, but what the team lacks is someone on the pitch who can call the right moves at the right time. The right time being determined by the position, the score, the time left, and what the opposition are doing in terms of defence.

This is not just the Wallabies' problem. The All Blacks are suffering from the same syndrome.

There has been a lot of discussion as to the demise of the All Blacks. Has the loss of influential players,

namely Fitzpatrick, Bunce, and Brooke, brought back New Zealand to the level of other mere mortal teams? The All Blacks have more individual talent at their disposal than any other rugby playing country. The problem lies in being able to point this talent in the right direction on the field.

It may sound like I am criticising John Eales, the Wallaby captain. But this is not the case. It is not his role on the field. After all, his counterpart, Sean Fitzpatrick, did not call the back-row or back-line moves for the All Blacks. He had other people in key positions doing that for him.

This is where John Hart comes into play. He is the one opposing coach I genuinely feared and respected greatly. You knew when you played a Hart-coached team that they were well versed in all aspects. I feel, with his man-management skills, that he will find that on-field leader I hope, however, that Australia find one first.

South Africa, meanwhile, would have been better off sitting in the sun than playing Wales in a warm-up for the Tri-Nations series. The

Welsh conceded 15 tries in a 96-13 defeat in Pretoria that was the worst in their history. What a waste of time the game was from whatever angle you look at it.

The England game (18-0 to the Springboks) really didn't give us any further clues as to the development of either side, due to Woodward's rain dance to keep the score down working wonders prior to last Saturday's muddy meeting in Cape Town.

The South Africans probably don't have the scintillating, individual brilliance of the All Blacks, or even the Wallabies for that matter. What they do have is a determination to succeed. They simply refuse to be beaten. "Losing is not an option", is a phrase that our coach at Saracens, the former Springbok captain, François Pien-

aar, used at least in every second sentence during our campaign last season. It seems to be the battle cry with this team also.

This is not to say that the Springboks are a team of determined "no-bopers". They are a very polished outfit, very physical, with no apparent weakness. They will be hard to beat.

Predictions? This will be the closest Tri-Nations series in its short history. Whoever wins – and being Australian I reckoned it will be Australia's year – we will see some brilliant rugby.

Unlike the tour games involving under-strength England, when the outcome was known before the teams took the field, the result of all the matches will go right down to the wire.

## All Blacks leave Lomu on bench as Viridi advances

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

JONAH LOMU, England's juggernaut-sized nemesis, may have left a number of the red rose fraternity seeking counselling but he is clearly not considered a formidable enough winger for the stampeding All Blacks. For the second time in his 22-Test career, the giant back was dropped yesterday as the New Zealand selectors turned in his stead to another behemoth straight off the silver fern production line by the name of Joeli Viridi.

Having missed most of last season with a rare kidney disorder, Lomu returned for the tour of Britain and recently played the opening two Tests against England before Saturday's first Tri-Nations Test against Australia in Melbourne. Lomu was below his best in the 40-10 drubbing of England's beleaguered tourists in the second Test and was replaced late in the game by Viridi, who scored a try.

"Joeli deserves his opportunity and in the way he plays the game this is an opportunity for him," John Hart, the All Blacks coach, said. "It is an important decision to leave out Jonah but [he] had a very poor game [against England] by his own admission and I think if he was to come off the bench he would be very effective."

Hart said if Lomu was to be picked as a replacement for the Melbourne match there was a chance that he would provide back-up for both the loose forwards as well as the backs.

While Viridi's inclusion adds further inexperience to an All Blacks bench of the stalwart talents of Sean Fitzpatrick, Zinzan Brooke and Frank Bunce, the scrum-half Justin Marshall will return after playing one match since tearing his Achilles tendon in March. However, the centre Mark Mayerhofer suffered a hamstring injury during a training session on Monday and will not play. The veteran Walter Little is still in doubt with a foot injury and Carlos Spencer has been selected on standby if Little fails to improve.

Another giant of the game, the 7ft 1in Newcastle lock Richard Metcalfe, is to leave the Premiership champions. The 24-year-old Scotland A forward is frustrated at the lack of first-team opportunities at the Falcons, where he has established international Garath Archer and Doddie Weir in front of him for the second row positions.

"I want to stay at Newcastle but I also want to further my rugby career and play for Scotland," he said. "To do that I need to be playing first-team rugby regularly, which I am not doing at Newcastle."

Metcalfe, who will be placed on the transfer list, has gained international representative honours at a level for both England and Scotland and was included in the full Scotland squad last season without making his debut. He is set to become the second player to leave Newcastle since they clinched the title, the full-back Tim Simpson having joined Leicester.

There is also speculation over the future of Newcastle's Western Samoan international Pat Lam. The 29-year-old player of the year has been linked with a move to Northampton. Lam's position could become clearer today when Newcastle reveal their squad for the new season.

■ South Africa plan midweek matches in Scotland and Ireland on their four-Test tour of Britain and Ireland later this year.

SOUTH AFRICA (British Isles itinerary): 10 November v Scottish provincial side (venue to be announced). 14 Nov v Wales (Cardiff). 21 Nov v English provincial side (venue to be announced). 24 Nov v Irish provincial side (venue to be announced). 1 December v Ireland (Lansdowne Road). 5 Dec v England (Twickenham).



Angus Fraser (left), Dominic Cork and Darren Gough (right) toil in the field as South Africa run up their massive first innings score at Old Trafford

Peter Jay

to extract anything like the turn managed by Paul Adams, a wrist spinner.

Although found wanting, it is difficult to be too hard on the bowlers, who are essentially the products of a flawed system, one whose prolonged season and bowler-friendly pitches has long tended to reward consistency over risk and variety.

Angus Fraser is just such an example, his unstringing accuracy helping to keep him at the forefront of selection for England. Unfortunately, on shirt fronts like the pitch at Old Trafford, his lack of guile means he

hopes rather than expects to take wickets, a philosophy not shared by the likes of Allan Donald or even Jacques Kallis, whose respective pace and swing helps keep their team in the hunt.

The problem, acknowledged by the England coach David Lloyd, is one that is being addressed, and the England and Wales Cricket Board have set up wrist spinning clinics as well as fast bowling courses around the country.

"The speedster machine has really put things into perspective," said Lloyd after England had saved the third Test. "All around the world we

are hit with big pace and wrist spin. Our bowlers have admirable qualities, but nothing like the quality and variety of other countries."

"We have several good young fast bowlers around. Alex Tudor of Surrey, Melvyn Betts and Stephen Harrison of Durham, as well as Paul Franks and Ryan Sidebottom. It's up to them to take up the challenge and they should start by watching a video of Allan Donald in this last Test. He was bursting and knackered but he was still kept coming and coming. That's what helps make him the great fast bowler he is."

If the quality is there, and the suc-

cess of our youth teams tends to suggest it is, the county system tends to diffuse it. In 1995, the South African Under-19 side toured England and were simply outclassed by the likes of Marcus Trescothick and Tony McGrath. Since then, two of the visiting side, Mark Boucher and Makhaya Ntini, are in the Test team, while both Trescothick and McGrath languish in county cricket, seemingly content to be among the also-rans.

If a system's efficiency is measured by output in relation to input, County cricket is clearly inefficient. The ECB has long admitted as

much and Lord MacLaurin, according to a tabloid newspaper, has called a September meeting of the county chairmen and chief executives in a bid to move the game into the 21st century.

With television de-listing set to bring more money into the game, there is a move to two divisional County Championship will no doubt be aired once more. If it is, it must be rejected.

Cricket in this country needs a stepping stone between county and Test level, a combative finishing school that only regional cricket and not the bogus drama of two divisions, can provide.

## Croft returns to add grit to Glamorgan's attack

ROBERT CROFT, England's stalwart at the crease at Old Trafford against South Africa on Tuesday, travels back across the border to turn out for Glamorgan in today's NatWest Trophy second-round tie against Leicestershire at Sophia Gardens.

His team-mate Steve James, discarded by England after making his Test debut at Lord's last month, is expected to play alongside Croft despite suffering from an injured right index finger picked up when dropping a catch against Nottinghamshire last week and aggravated during the next match against Surrey. James was forced to withdraw from Sunday's AXA League match and X-rays indicate there is

a slight crack in the bone but he is still determined to play. Waqar Younis, who has a damaged elbow, is out.

Leicestershire have omitted the fast bowler David Millns. Millns has only just returned following a long lay-off because of an ear infection. Also missing will be the fast bowler James Ormond, who is still recovering from a back problem. Medium pacer Dominic Williamson is included, with the all-rounder Jon Dakin and off-spinner Tim Mason also in the squad.

Nick Knight and Ashley Giles scuttle back to Warwickshire to provide last year's beaten finalists with a near full-strength squad for their

tie against Kent at Edgbaston. Omnipotently for Kent, Warwickshire have won all the previous four encounters between the two.

Darren Gough returns to Old Trafford to spearhead Yorkshire's attack. Gough joins Chris Silverwood with the left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom the bowler likely to drop out. Yorkshire, still without Craig White, who has a back injury, make a late check on Anthony McGrath, who has been suffering from flu since the weekend.

Their roses opponents should include Warren Hegg and Neil Fairbrother, who are both expected to pass late fitness tests. With Mike Atherton available again and Wasim

Akram also fully fit after shoulder and groin troubles, Lancashire can select from a full-strength squad for a match that is expected to attract a crowd of almost 10,000.

Darren Robinson's broken finger will keep him out of Essex's tie against Hampshire at Southampton. The 25-year-old will also miss their Benson and Hedges Cup final against Leicestershire at Lord's on Saturday. However, Nasser Hussain is expected to play. Robin Smith and Peter Hartley are both doubtful. Smith has a broken right-index finger while Hartley is still being troubled by a shoulder injury. Matthew Keach is also ruled out but Jason Laney is named in a party of 13.

Nottinghamshire are boosted by Tim Robinson's return against Somerset at Trent Bridge. He replaces Noel Gee as the only change to the side that lost to Middlesex at the weekend. Somerset will be without wicketkeeper Roh Turner, who has an elbow injury. Mike Burns takes over the gloves, while the experienced Richard Harden is recalled.

Derbyshire's Phillip DeFreitas misses the confrontation against Scotland at Edinburgh. The seam bowler has tonsillitis while a back injury has ruled out opening batsman Adrian Rollins. Robin Weston comes into a 13-man squad that includes wicketkeeper Karl Krikken, who has recovered from a cracked

cheekbone. Dominic Cork is back as captain.

The Scots are without all-rounder Mike Allingham and opener Bryn Lockie. The Scots have also preferred wicketkeeper Roh Turner, who has an elbow injury. Mike Burns takes over the gloves, while the experienced Richard Harden is recalled.

Gloucestershire's young blade Dominic Hewson returns to the side for the encounter with Surrey at Bristol. Hewson missed Sunday's AXA League victory over Hampshire with a slight ankle injury, after steering Gloucestershire to success in the Championship match the previous day.

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Fifty years of the British Grand Prix: How a disused Northamptonshire airfield became one of motor racing's greatest venues

# Silverstone stands the test of time

BY DERRICK ALLSOP

IT IS a scene that would have defied the wildest fantasies of its pioneers: a four-day festival attracting a crowd of 225,000, the feature event watched by a live television audience of 350 million people in 130 countries around the world, generating £30m annually for the local economy.

And so much more besides. The British Grand Prix at Silverstone is one of the nation's great social happenings as well as a blue ribbon occasion on the sporting calendar, a place to be at and be seen at. And this weekend it celebrates its golden jubilee.

Across the landscape of that half-century this exposed, windswept plain on the Northamptonshire-Buckinghamshire border has played host to some of the most spectacular encounters in motor racing. Its beginnings, however humble, were no less dramatic.

Britain was ravenous for recreation in the aftermath of the Second World War. Football grounds were bursting at the seams and motoring enthusiasts were scouring the land for their own playing fields.

Brooklands and Donington, venues for the British Grand Prix in the 1920s and 1930s, were occupied by the Vickers aircraft company and military vehicles respectively, while the Crystal Palace circuit had fallen into disrepair.

An abandoned airfield at Silverstone came to light as a potential track after a local man called Maurice Geoghegan and his chums, intent on some motorised fun in September 1947, engaged in what has gone down in racing lore as the "Mutton Grand Prix". Geoghegan's Frazer Nash was put out of action when he ran into an unwary sheep.

News of Silverstone spread through the motoring fraternity and although the local constabulary resisted subsequent attempts at organised racing the RAC was alerted to the possibility of a suitable site for its planned 1948 grand prix and a lease was granted.

For that event the organisers laid out a track which utilised not only the perimeter road but also the runways. Since the cars would be turning in opposite directions before turning sharp left at the intersections, canvas screens were erected to put any fears out of the drivers' minds.

Unsurprisingly, this section of the circuit was changed the following year when the race formally took on the title of the British Grand Prix. That revised shape remained intact for 25 years, until a chicane was introduced at Woodcote.

Silverstone was never the most loved circuit in the world. It lacked the atmosphere of Monza, the splendour of Spa and the natural amphitheatre of Brands Hatch for instance. But it was fast. Blindingly fast. Keke Rosberg qualified his Williams-Honda for the 1985 race at a record 160.725mph.

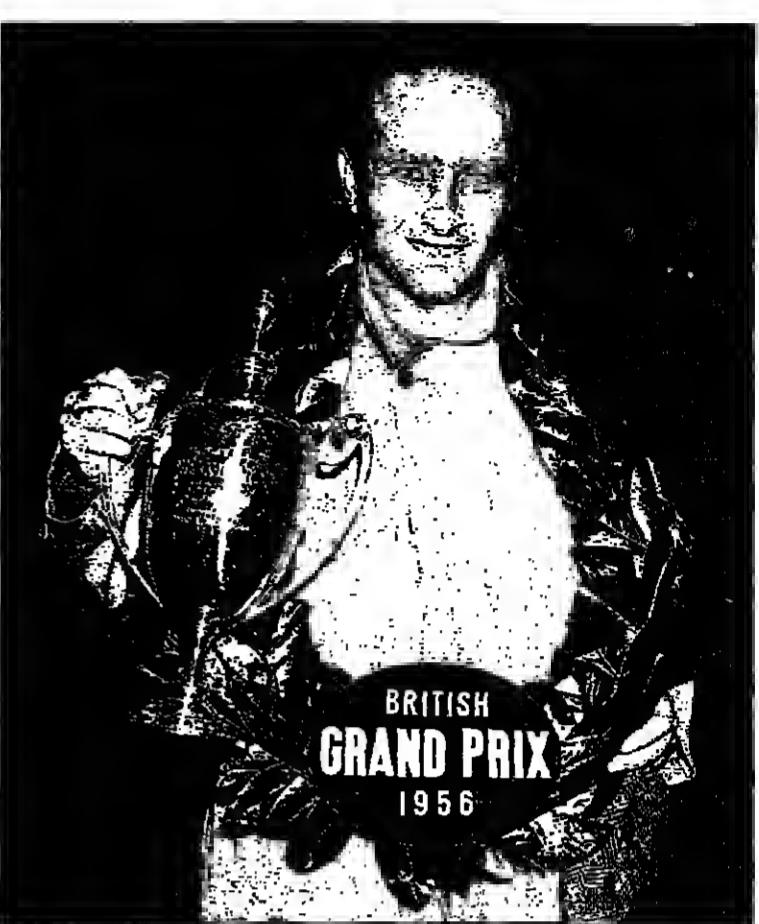
Radical alterations had to be made for safety reasons in 1992, and they have since been fine-tuned to the wider satisfaction of drivers and spectators alike.

Equally significant improvements have been made off track since the days of straw bales, oil drums and roped-off public enclosures. For this



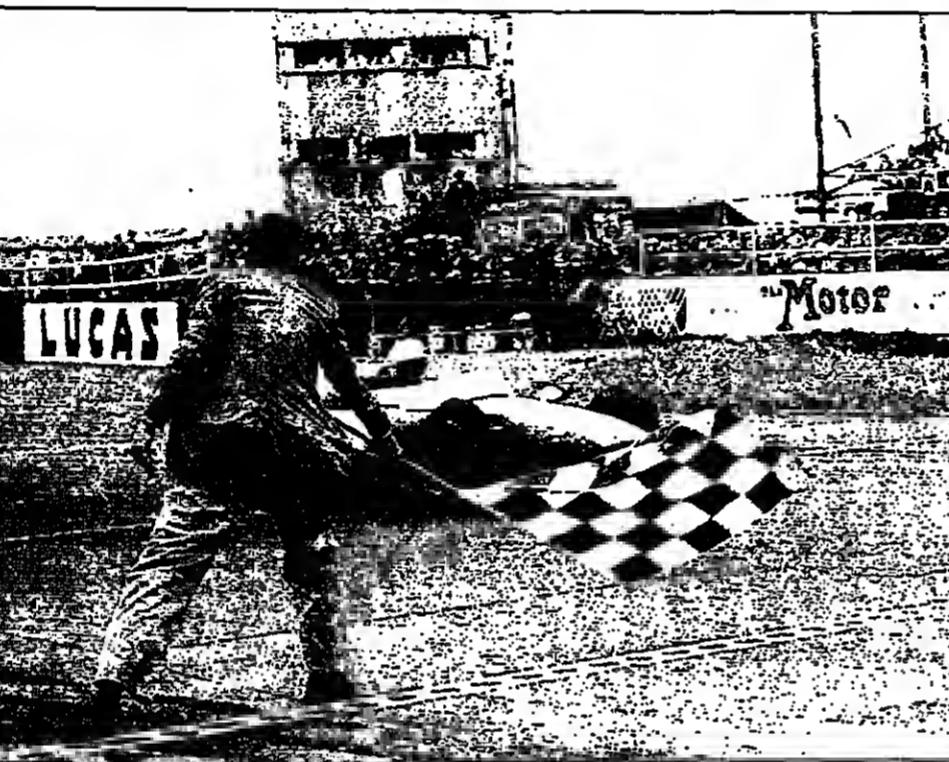
1948: A push start for the inaugural British Grand Prix. The race was won by Luigi Villoresi in a Maserati

Hulton Getty



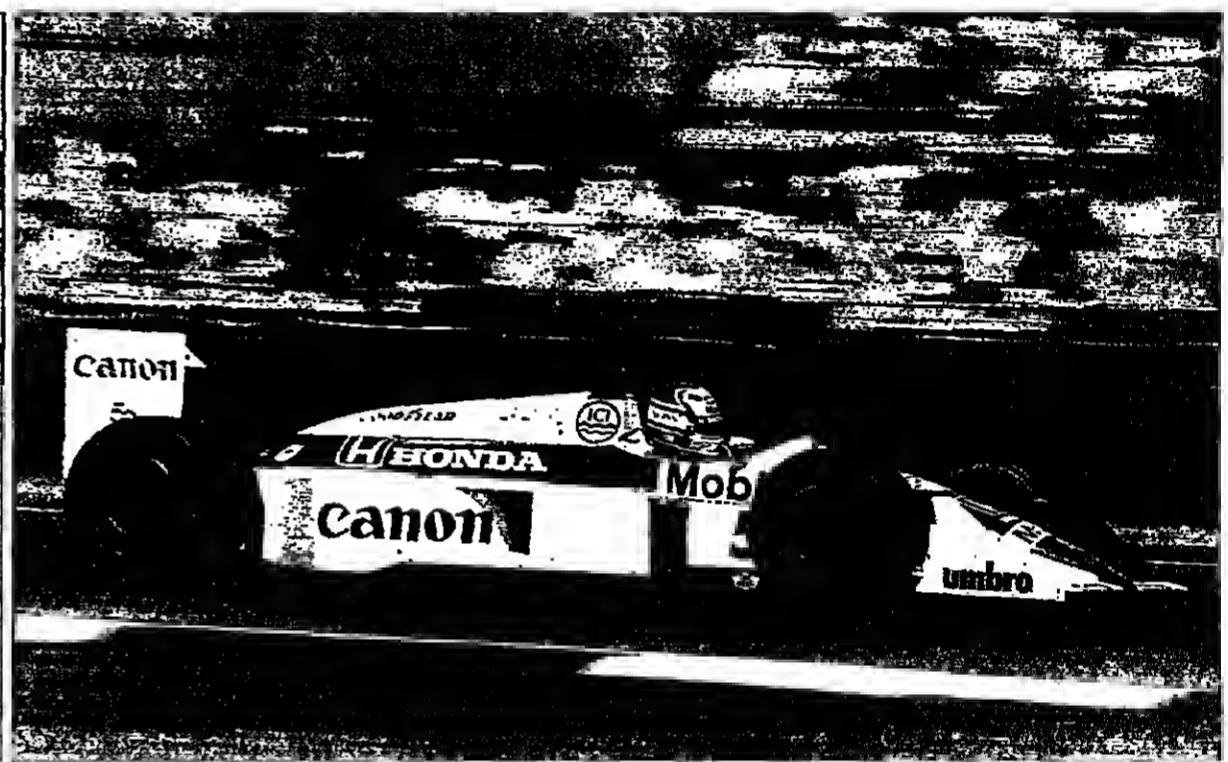
BRITISH  
GRAND PRIX  
1956

Hulton Getty



1960: Jack Brabham completes a pole to flag victory in a Cooper Climax

Hulton Getty



1987: Britain's Nigel Mansell on his way to victory in one of Silverstone's most memorable races

Allsport

year's grand prix, 53,000 grand-stand seats are in place. Hospitality and catering facilities extend by the year. On Sunday Silverstone will becomes the world's busiest airport, with nearly 4,000 helicopter movements.

From the mid-1960s until 1986 Silverstone shared the honour of staging the British Grand Prix, initially with Aintree and then with Brands Hatch. When the FIA, the governing body, decided on a policy of one country one circuit, Silverstone, with its greater scope for development, was chosen.

Despite the changes over the years, original names of corners and straights have stood the test of time. The first man to negotiate Becketts, Chapel, Stowe, Club,

Abbey and Hangar Straight en route to victory was Luigi Villoresi, an Italian driving a Maserati.

Giuseppe Farina, his fellow countryman, driving an Alfa Romeo, claimed the distinction of winning the 1950 race, which was the first round of the inaugural World Championship, and given the additional accolade of Grand Prix of Europe.

Home drivers have a good record at Silverstone, although one of the most celebrated performances resulted in glorious failure. Graham Hill stalled at the start in 1960 but carved his way through the field to take the lead, only to spin under pressure from Jack Brabham.

Hill's son, Damon, won a famously controversial British Grand

Prix in 1994 after Michael Schumacher ignored the black flag. The villain of 1973 was Jody Scheckter, who spun and caused a massive pile-up at the start and had to be locked away by his team. Almost forgotten is the winner that day, Peter Revson.

Perhaps most memorable of all was the 1987 race at Silverstone, when Nigel Mansell, who brought a new fervour to motor racing in this country, pulled back a 28-second deficit to beat his Williams team-mate and nemesis, Nelson Piquet. Mansell completed the classic by outwitting the Brazilian with a double feint along Hangar Straight at 200 mph.

Drivers of the next half-century have a hard act to follow.

1948 Converted RAF World War II bomber training base hosts first grand prix on a 3.67-mile circuit. Lap record set at 77 mph by Luigi Villoresi in a Maserati

1949 Club chicane removed and circuit assumes the 2.9-mile shape that lasts 25 years unaltered

1951 RAC gives up running the circuit. The British Racing Drivers' Club takes on the lease

1971 BRDC purchases freehold of entire 720-acre estate. Lap record tops 130 mph, set by Jackie Stewart in a Tyrrell-Ford

1973 Jody Scheckter spins his McLaren exiting Woodcote on lap one of grand prix and triggers mass pile-up

1975 44 modern pits constructed and Woodcote slowed by inserting a right-left-right chicane. Lap length now 2.932 miles

1979 Entire circuit resurfaced in "Delugrip" high-grip material. Lap record now over 140 mph, set by Clay Regazzoni in a Williams-Ford

1985 Keke Rosberg becomes fastest man ever around Silverstone with a qualifying lap of 160.925 mph in a Williams. Alain Prost sets new lap record of 150 mph in a McLaren-Tag Turbo

1987 New left-right corner insert-

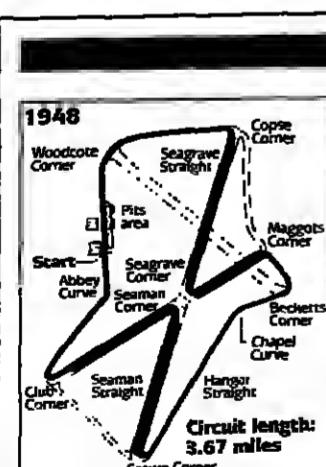
ed before Woodcote to trim speeds over start-finish line. Lap 2.963 miles

1992 Major revisions to track see new Becketts sequence, Vale link and Priory infield loop

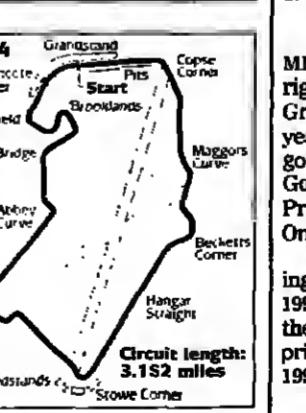
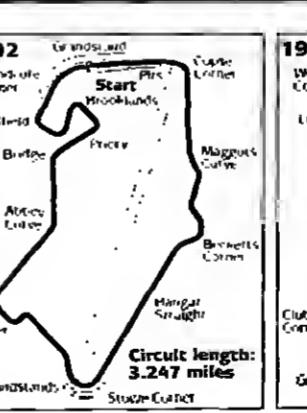
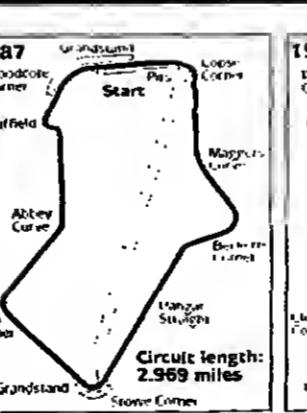
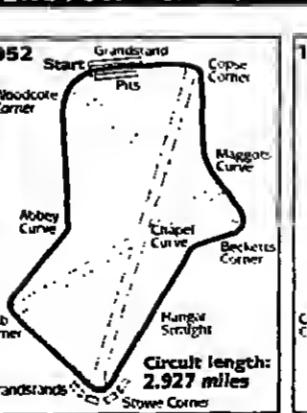
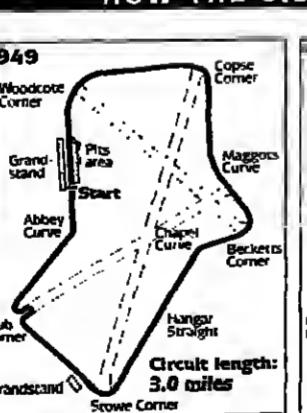
1994 Driver safety increased with new gravel traps at Copse, Stowe, Vale, Abbey and Priory, using 1,000 lorry-loads of materials

1996 Stowe corner revised to run quicker. New lap length is 3.152 miles and lap record is established by Jacques Villeneuve at 127.096

1997 Copse, Brooklands and Luffield altered and track resurfaced. Circuit now 3.194 miles long. Michael Schumacher sets lap record of 136.115 mph



HOW THE SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



## Melbourne extension

MELBOURNE HAS won the right to host the Australian Grand Prix for a further five years until 2006 following negotiations with the Victorian Government, Australian Grand Prix Corporation and Formula One administration.

Melbourne took over the staging of the race from Adelaide in 1996 and is expected to again be the scene of the opening grand prix of the season when the 1999 calendar is released.

Gerhard Berger has been put in charge of preparing

BMW's return to Formula One racing with Williams in 2000. The Austrian won 10 grands prix in a 210-race career that spanned stints with Benetton, McLaren and Ferrari.

The Spanish 500cc motorcyclist Carlos Checa is "improving steadily" after crashing during practice for last Sunday's British Grand Prix at Donington Park.

Checa had his spleen removed and after strong initial progress, he suffered a stroke which left him with problems with his vision and movement.

The second offensive begins.

Once more unto the breach, dear friends. This battle resumes in the Second Round of the NatWest Trophy.

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# Grand gains for a couple of wannabes

BY RICHARD EDMOND-SON  
at Newmarket

**WANNABE GRAND** was Jeremy Noseda's first Group winner yesterday, but the perverse might suggest that the real trainer behind the horse was Saeed Bin Suroor.

Noseda was the original assistant when the Godolphin enterprise launched in 1993. During his two-year involvement, the boys in blue scooped 17 Group One prizes with the help of animals such as Lammatta, Balanchine and Classic Cliche.

However, by the time Noseda left, after the 1995 Breeders' Cup, there was talk of disenchantment in the camp, that he was tired of being the *de facto* trainer, while Bin Suroor took the credit. It would be a nice to imagine that the Newmarket-domiciled Arab had given his old colleague a hand in yesterday's Cherry Hinton Stakes success.

Post-Godolphin, Noseda went to train in California, where he managed 20 months and a Group winner via Chiquer at Bay Meadows. "I knew that I would come back from America one day," he said. "I found it monotonous over there. English racing is the greatest racing in the world. Maybe the prize-money is not so great, but there are so many other good things about it. This is the racing that I love and it was always my ambition to train in England. There is a romantic side to it."

Noseda returned to his homeland for this season after purchasing Paul Kellaway's Shafieet yard on Newmarket's Bury Road. His first runner was

a winner, and appropriately enough, considering his tutelage, it was on the sand. Nautical Warning won an apprentice race at Lingfield last week on from here to achieve high station.

Nine further winners have followed and yesterday came the yard's biggest day to date.

It may not have been the greatest Cherry Hinton, a race which has seen the regal presences of Harayir, Sayyedati, Dimumino, Chimes Of Freedom, Forest Flower and Magic Of Life brought before us in the past, but that will not have troubled Noseda.

Much of this contest was

dominated by Spirit Willing in the centre and Pipalong on the rails, but when the former

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Cable Media Boy  
(Newmarket 4.15)  
NB: Sheer Viking  
(Newmarket 2.35)

swerved left in apparent search of some corporate hospitality another presence arrived. Wannabe Grand, an 11-1 chance, surged through for a length and a half success. "This is huge," the trainer said. "I'm enjoying it. There's plenty of pressure, maybe most of it put on myself. This is a great start but I want things to get even bigger."

"It's a big day and it's what I've dreamt about doing. Hopefully, this is a start of a good career for her and a good career for myself, please God."

Mart Johnston has a few more scores on the door and he further increased his Group race collection when Fruits Of Love captured the Princess Of Wales's Stakes.

The bookmakers were not so

receptive, and Coral immediately started its Derby book with a 25-1 quote about Nimelio.

They do like a laugh.

This too was perhaps not the best running of a race which was founded in 1894 and immediately taken by Derby winners Isinglass and Ladas. Petroski and Carroll House later went on from here to achieve high station.

Fruits Of Love's victory was

merited, however, for a colt

who was struck down by a broken pelvis just last autumn. "I

was in Kentucky at the time and I can't remember getting a worse phone call," Johnston said. "They woke me up at five in the morning to tell me he had pulled up lame on the gallops."

This victory at least brought to our attention Mick Doyle, the colt's owner and former deep sea trawlerman. He had fishes on his tie. "All my horses have love in the name," he said, "because I'm the most romantic man in all of Ireland."

The July meeting is traditionally the point for half-time oranges in the Flat season. The body racing trots down the tunnel after the Eclipse Stakes and when it returns there are several young and talented substitutes in the team.

The first batch of promising two-year-olds ran out to Newmarket's thunderous swarms under overcast skies in the opener. Alhareth and Mark Of Esteem fought out the finish to this contest three years ago, but there was not much conflict yesterday as Nimelio powered through for a convincing win.

"It's nice to know we've got a decent horse and now we'll

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 8 July 1998

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WORLD CUP/27

# Pekerman made Argentina coach

ARGENTINA HAVE appointed their former international junior coach, Jose Pekerman, as their interim coach following the departure of Daniel Passarella.

Passarella stepped down as promised following his country's World Cup elimination by the Netherlands on Saturday, and Pekerman is the favourite to be his permanent successor.

Pekerman is a popular choice because of his success as coach of Argentina's Under-20 side which has won two World Championships playing exciting, attacking football.

A number of other qualified candidates are interested in the job, and they reportedly include Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning coach, Carlos Bilardo.

Although Diego Maradona is not on the list, he does have a message for the new national coach - abandon the European style introduced by Passarella. Analysing the defeat by the Netherlands, Maradona said: "What annoyed me most was that our players did not play their own game, but played like Europeans. "I would have been happy if we had gone down playing our own style. But Argentina came out playing like Germany while at the same time Holland played like Argentina and led us a merry dance."

Argentina's World Cup squad was welcomed home yesterday by more than 500 cheering fans. "We are always with you", "The champion is not always the best" and "Thanks for everything" were just

some of the signs waved by supporters to their heroes.

All 240 drug tests in the first 60 matches of the World Cup have been negative, the governing body of world football, Fifa, said yesterday.

Dr Michel D'Hooge, the Belgian chairman of Fifa's sports medical committee, said: "It gives me great satisfaction, but we are not claiming

a 100 per cent victory yet as there are still four matches to play.

"However, the majority of players who are still to play have already been tested and we are hopeful that by the end of the tournament there will be perfect compliance of the Fifa regulations." Under Fifa rules two players from each team are tested after every match following a draw made at half-time.

Pele thinks Brazil are not playing their best football and England's David Beckham did not deserve the red card, while he considers the best teams so far to be France and the Netherlands. "Brazil can do a better job and are not working well together," Pele was quoted as saying in an interview in the French

sports newspaper *L'Equipe* yesterday. "We've had some little problems with co-ordination. Luckily we qualified, but Brazil can play better."

He was critical of the World Cup's tough stance on tackling from behind, saying Fifa "creates difficulty for the defenders who are now afraid of getting a yellow or red card."

"We also see strikers dramatising things after a tackle to provoke a card. The confusion in these circumstances creates different attitudes in referees and inevitably mistakes."

Such as the expulsion of David Beckham in the Argentina v England second-round match? "Oh yes, I didn't see it very well the first time. But now I think that Simeone is... a good actor," Pele was quoted as saying. "Unfortunately England was

eliminated and with it Michael Owen, who was the great surprise for me."

Sir Bobby Charlton believes

France will win the trophy. Eng-

land's record goalscorer says

France's defensive strength will take

them past Croatia in the semi-finals

and they will be roared on by their

home crowd to the ultimate prize.

Sir Bobby also has "a sneaking

feeling" that the Netherlands will get

past Brazil to take their place in the

Stade de France on Sunday. "There

are a lot of ifs and buts. However, I

think France are the only ones who

look as though they are definitely

going to get there. I also have a

sneaking feeling that Holland will

beat Brazil, especially if Brazil make

the same mistakes that they made

against Denmark. Everybody tells me that Brazil can step up a gear - but they may be at full throttle already."

Sir Bobby added: "France have their defensive strength and they have Zinedine Zidane. He makes it all happen and defences are frightened of him."

Charlton believes Brazilian star

Ronaldo has yet to live up to his pre-

tournament billing. "Before the

World Cup, I would have said he was

potentially the only one who was

going to push himself into super-

stardom," said Sir Bobby.

"He's got the history that he can

play - but unless you do it at World

Cup level then you've not proved it.

He's got the opportunity over the

next one or maybe two games but

he has to do it then."

Second semi-final: The burden of securing victory in Paris tonight falls on two players who have points to prove

## Djorkaeff's free spirit can decide French fate

John Lichfield talks to the creative force of the France team, a rover while on the pitch but very direct when off it

**Y**OURI DJORKAEFF will score a goal for France against Croatia in the World Cup semi-final at the Stade de France tonight. Who says so? Youri does. Youri Djorkaeff's name is permanently printed on the France team-sheet. Who says so? Youri does. Youri Djorkaeff invented the France style of play for France 98. Who says so? Youri did.

For a man who has yet to set the World Cup alight - one goal from the penalty spot; a series of unconvincing performances - the Internazionale striker-cum-midfielder has a high opinion of his own abilities. On the field he can be moody, frustrating, yet he is the first to tick off his colleagues, especially the younger ones. Off the field, he is more likeable - passionate, thoughtful, sometimes funny.

Djorkaeff is one of the rare footballers who thinks carefully before replying to questions. He tries to avoid stating the obvious. Is he pleased to have avoided the Germans in the semi-final? "No, I would have preferred the Germans. I think they were the weaker team. The Croats have the wind on their backs. They have the confidence to attempt, and to pull off, the unexpected."

Rumours from within the France camp suggest that some of his senior team-mates - Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamps - wanted him dropped for the quarter-final game against Italy. Djorkaeff played and missed two good chances. He refused to take a penalty in the shoot-out ("I was too tired"), even though he is the team's penalty-taker and, at 30, one of the most experienced members of the squad. And yet there can be no doubt that Djorkaeff will play tonight.

After the last-16 game against Paraguay, other senior players campaigned for Youri's replacement by a third midfield work-horse. Jacquet half-complied. Against Italy, he put Christian Karembeu into the midfield with Deschamps and Emmanuel Petit, but was started without his top scorer, Thierry Henry. He put the "indispensable" Djorkaeff alongside Zidane in a 4-3-2-1 formation, with only Stéphane Guivarc'h up front. Deschamps hinted after the game that Djorkaeff had been told

that he must work harder. If so, he obeyed, harrying the Italians tirelessly. But he also fluffed the best two French chances of the match.

Djorkaeff was born into a football family. His father, Jean, of Russian-Ukrainian origin, was captain of the France team which performed miserably in England's World Cup year, 1996. The young Djorkaeff

had a steady, rather than meteoric, career, making his first international appearance at the age of 25. He played for Grenoble, Strasbourg and Monaco before blossoming with Paris St-Germain and making an impressive debut with Inter in 1996-7.

Last season, he faded, losing his regular place in Inter's line-up of global all-stars - Ronald, Ivan

Zamorano, Diego Simeone etc. The loss of form has persisted into the World Cup. He appears to have become torn between playing his usual, free, selfish role and developing into a team player and has done neither particularly well. Has he, himself, been disappointed in his performances? "That's for others to judge. I'm playing the World Cup I

expected to play. What is more important, that Youri Djorkaeff should score a lot of goals or that France should be in the semi-finals? Anyone who thinks that I could be disappointed or sad or bitter with that outcome does not understand anything about sport."

The frustrations and criticisms do not appear to have dented Djorkaeff's self-confidence, off-the-pitch

in any case. On the pitch Jacquet has instructed him to be more arrogant and shoot on sight. "I know I'm going to score [against Croatia]," Djorkaeff said. "I know it. I feel it. I can't explain why. It's a kind of premonition... this time it's going to go in. I may only have a couple of chances but I'm going to score."

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## Suker's heart beats for a nation

Cute, cunning and deadly in front of goal, the Croat hit-man is the player the host nation fear most. By Andrew Longmore

THE PRESS box at the Stade Gerland in Lyons is, unlike the crow's nests at other World Cup stadiums, at pitch level. What it loses in perspective, it gains in atmosphere. And, on Saturday evening, it afforded the world's press an unrivalled view of the skill of Davor Suker.

Midway through the second half of the 3-0 victory over Germany, the Croatian striker received the ball with his back to goal close to the touchline. Behind him was Michael Tarnat. Quite how Suker judged the distance remains a mystery, but with a turn, a roll of his right foot across the ball and skip to the right, he drew the German wing-back into a challenge and, threading the ball through a gap of perhaps a foot between German studs and white line, sped away from his marker towards the byline.

Suker will want the video stopped right there, but what happens next is as much part of the story. In his eagerness to capitalise, Suker stumbled, tried to recover his balance, like a drunk tripping over the kerb, and plunged head first into the ground. From the sublime to the ridiculous in the twinkling of an eye.

For all his 34 goals in 40 internationals, his wealth and status, there

is still a sense that Suker has not made the most of what he has. Suker at least had the good grace to emerge with a rueful smile flicking his lips. At 30, he is too old to be taught new tricks.

"Dangerous" is how Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, has described his unlikely semi-final opponents in the Stade de Gerland this evening. "Mentality has often been a weakness in Yugoslavia and former Yugoslav players," Jean François Jodar, one of Jacquet's spies, said. "But I don't think we can count on that this time." Their chessboard shirts might have been voted the ugliest in the tournament, but a weakness in Yugoslavia and former Yugoslav players," Jean François Jodar, one of Jacquet's spies, said.

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Suker was born and brought up in Osijek, a town 150 miles east of Zagreb. His father was an Olympic shot-putter, Tomislav Suker, but football was always Davor's game. From Osijek he moved to Dynamo Zagreb, now Croatia Zagreb, where his instinct for goalscoring - 167 in five seasons - attracted a lucrative move to Seville.

Suker was there when the civil war began in July 1991 and the guilt still lingers along with relief. International lothlagers were regarded as too important to be sacrificed on the battlefield, but

the propaganda battle had started again. The Croats took what they refer to as a slight, though they refer to themselves as "Little Croatia".

Suker, along with Zvonimir Boban, has represented the emerging sense of national identity which followed Croatia's independence in 1991. Both were members of the Yugoslav junior side which won the World Championship in 1987, but neither had any doubts where their loyalties truly lay.

Orchestrated by Suker, the Croats pushed the Germans way over the line laid down at the final, a fact symbolically acknowledged by Suker, who wielded a Croatian flag like a matador's cape during the chaotic celebration of Germany's heaviest World Cup defeat for 40 years.

"The big guns don't always win,"

Suker said later, a reference to the dismissive comments of Bernd Vogts, the Germany coach. The war-torn spirit of Euro 96 has been transformed into a chipper little complex in France 98. When Jacquet referred to their victory as a "semi-sur-

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# Blatter bemoans 'textile testers'

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

THE NETHERLANDS' Dennis Bergkamp would not even have started last night's World Cup semi-final against Brazil if Fifa's disciplinary committee had done their job, the new president Sepp Blatter has claimed. Instead, Bergkamp would be serving the second of a two-match ban for stamping on Yugoslavia's Siniša Mihajlović in the Netherlands' second-round 2-1 victory.

Television replays showed the Arsenal striker stamping on the Yugoslav but neither the referee nor his assistant intervened. Days earlier France's Zinedine Zidane committed a similar offence in his country's group match against Saudi Arabia. Zidane was sent off and banned for two matches. The disciplinary committee has refused to study videos in France '98 to discern which players are breaking the rules. The decision has enraged Blatter.

"There were two cases of them using videos in 1994," Blatter said. "One to prevent a player getting a second yellow card and in the other to punish an Italian player for a foul on a Spanish player. The disciplinary committee have the opportunity to use videos here in France but they will not do it. I will have a word with them after the tournament, a very serious word."

However, Blatter's "word" may not be enough. The committee only intervenes if an act is committed behind the referee's back, which was not the case with Bergkamp. Blatter also criticised players he described as "textile testers".

"It is incredible how many players are using their hands, grabbing an opponent's shirt. It is as if they have been signed up by several companies as textile testers," he complained.

The length of the tournament and kick-off time of the final also came in for criticism. "The next World Cup should be shortened by four or five days," Blatter said.

"Thirty-two days is really a long period. It is not easy. In the opening phase, teams had six days between matches," Blatter told a Swiss newspaper yesterday. "That's too many. It

shouldn't be longer than four days."

He conceded there was a danger of viewers being saturated if matches were played closer together, but that the danger "also exists if the World Cup lasts for 33 days". In an effort to solve the problem Blatter suggested increasing the number of matches a day during the first round but admitted that any changes would need to be discussed with television companies.

Sunday's final kicks off at 9pm local time and Blatter said he was unhappy with that too. "It means we cannot have a party on the same day of the final. It will have to be held in the early hours on Monday morning. The kick-off should have been at 6pm," he said. Asked why the 9pm kick-off had not been changed he replied, with a smile: "I wasn't president then."

Although he is charge now, Blatter said that he had no plans to change some of France '98's more controversial arrangements. "There's no question that changes must be made in the sale of tickets," Blatter continued, but he did not specify what changes might be considered. Ticket scandals have dogged the finals.

Blatter, 62, hinted that he will step down from the committee bidding for the 2006 Winter Olympics to come to Switzerland. He is one of the most prominent campaigners for the bid to host the games in Sion, in his native state of Valais.

"A double function in Fifa and Sion 1996 doesn't seem possible any more," he was quoted as saying. "But I will continue to support the application in some form." The new Fifa president denied he has promised the 2006 World Cup finals to Africa, but said a rotation system among America, Europe, Asia and Africa is "logical".

"[Africa] needs to be able to offer the necessary structures if it is to be awarded the tournament," Blatter said. He also promised unity on the world body's ruling executive committee and said the Uefa president Lennart Johansson, whom Blatter defeated last month for the Fifa presidency, would become one of his "closest contacts".

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A giant replica of Tricolore, the France 98 World Cup football, hangs from the ceiling of a Parisian department store. Sepp Blatter, the new Fifa president, has promised changes will be made in the sale of tickets, a source of controversy throughout these finals

FRANZ BECKENBAUER yesterday criticised the standard of football at the World Cup finals and predicted the European club game would one day eclipse international football.

Beckenbauer, who won the World Cup with Germany both as a captain in 1974 and a coach in 1990 and known as the "Kaiser", said that the probable creation of a European league could lead to a major shift in the game's power base.

"The European league will come and the top clubs will gain in power," Beckenbauer predicted. "One day there won't be a national team anymore. Europe is growing together. At the moment the national team has a high value. But the influence of the clubs is getting bigger."

"The World Cup has been okay. But it has been without big moments," he said. "Some of the games in the first round should not have taken place in a stadium but on an all-weather practice pitch."

The Croatia coach, Miroslav Blazevic, said yesterday that he was considering other offers and did not know if he would remain as national coach after the World Cup. "I have had a number of offers, most notably from within France," said Blazevic, whose side face France in the second semi-final today.

Blazevic said he was not involved in negotiations with any clubs: "At the moment I am not dealing with my future, I have a big game to prepare for. We will see after the World Cup."

A Croatian football federation spokesman, Darko Tironi, said that the 63-year-old has two years remaining on his contract with the national side. But Blazevic might be swayed by the opportunity to coach in France again, having done so at the first division club Nantes in 1988. He has also been in charge at the Swiss club Grasshopper Zurich and Greek side PAOK Salónica.

Moreno Torricelli, the Italy defender, has moved from Juventus to Fiorentina. Torricelli, 22, has spent the past six seasons in Turin, winning three Serie A titles and one European Cup. Also on the move is the Austria striker Toni Polster, who has joined the German club Borussia Mönchengladbach from Cologne.



## DIARY

WHY DO referees want to go the World Cup and risk being vilified? The wages could offer a pointer. Each referee is paid £15,000 for the tournament, given free board and lodgings and £125-per-day "pocket money", making a total of around £20,000 for the five weeks. The Independent telephoned the FA to ask how the money compares to that paid to Premiership referees, but the line was engaged all day. One can only assume Lancaster Gate was being deluged by enquiries from people who want application forms to be the next Paul Durkin.

FIFA IS SPONSORING A STUDY of 700 football players in three European nations to pinpoint the chief causes and ways to prevent injuries. Dr Jiri Dvorak, a member of Fifa's medical commission, said the study encompasses all levels, from amateurs to professionals, ages 14 and above, in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Similar research in the past helped lead to the banning of the tackle from behind - the new research might lead to the banning of the tackle altogether. Who knows, future research might even lead to a ban on kicking the ball. Perhaps Maradona, with his hands-on approach, was not cheating, but simply way ahead of his time.

ILUKA TRIPKOVIC, the patron of Paris's only Croatian bar, had to lock 300 people outside for the quarter-final game. "I need a room six times bigger than this bar for the France game," he said.

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8/11 France 4/1 Croatia 15/8 Draw

First player to score	France to win by
1-0	2-0 3-1 3-0 3-1
Djorkaeff	£520 £580 £680 £1020 £920
Zidane	£520 £580 £680 £1020 £920
Petit	£1220 £1340 £1520 £2520 £2020
Blanc	£1340 £1620 £2020 £3020 £2520
Deschamps	£2020 £2520 £3020 £4520 £4020
First player to score	Croatia to win by
1-0	2-0 2-1 3-0 3-1
Suker	£720 £1620 £1340 £5520 £4520
Vlaovic	£1220 £2520 £2020 £7520 £6520
Stanic	£1620 £3520 £3020 £10,020 £9020
Boban	£2020 £4520 £3520 £11,020 £10,020
Jaric	£2520 £5020 £4520 £13,020 £11,020

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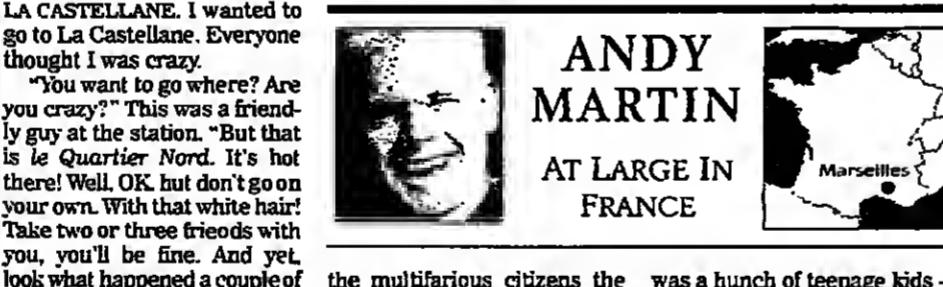
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## Star billing in Zidane territory



the multifarious citizens the Marseillais refer to as "arabs", "moslems" or "North Africans".

So - with the sense that I was venturing into a no-go area, a warzone, and coward enough to identify myself as Australian if anyone asked - I took the metro to Bougainville and the 35 bus (it takes an hour) instead. When I got off the bus the cicadas were blasting away and I could see far out over the harbour and Mediterranean. I had the sense that this was as far south as it was possible to go and still be in France, if indeed I was in France.

The taxi driver did not care who was born there; he wasn't driving to La Castellane. "It's not worth it. I will get my car smashed up; they break everything there. If you're going, don't take any money with you. They are strong, and there are lots of them." The "them" being

a bunch of teenage kids

of North African ancestry, I guessed, kicking a football about. "What are you looking for?" one of them said to me.

I gulped. "I'm looking for the club."

"It's over there. I'll take you."

About 10 of them took me to the club.

"Are you supporting Brazil or Holland?" the kid asked me.

"Brazil and Holland," I said, playing it safe.

"We're supporting Holland," he said.

"We'd rather meet Holland than Brazil in the final."

He accompanied me to the Association des jeunes de la nouvelle vague, which is the seat of La Castellane football club. It was like a shop-front, not much more (their ground is further off). A giant poster of Zi-

dane, honorary president of the club, took pride of place.

There were three or four guys lounging in the sun outside. "We're third in the division d'honneur", one of them told me, after Olympique Marseillais (one of their B teams) and someone else. Zidane's apartment was at the end of the square, with a purple parasol sticking out of the window.

"He lives in Italy now," one of a bunch of little kids told me. "But if you want to meet some Zidanes, there are two of them." He introduced me to Driss and Melhi, his nephews, who were six and three years old. They were putting on in-line skates, but they assured me that they were going to play for France one day and that France would certainly win the World Cup and that yes, Zidane himself would score the winning goal.

Saida was the name of the stunningly beautiful young girl (around 15) who was keeping an eye on them and who had some

complicated relationship to Zidane I didn't really understand. "What do the girls do here if all the boys play football?" I asked her. "We play football, too," she said. "We are all Zidane here."

Her friend told me, without me asking that the Zidanes had a Kabyl background.

Then still more kids rolled up and asked me to speak some English to them and they spoke English back to me. Then we had to speak Spanish. "You don't know any Chinese do you?" one of them asked.

"That hair of yours," said another (in French now). "It's dyed, right?"

"Have you got a ticket for the match?"

I was Mr Popular, the star attraction, sitting on the steps outside the club, for an hour or so, shooting the breeze with about a hundred kids. I did not give anyone anything and no one asked me for anything, let alone mug me and leave me for dead. Maybe I was lucky. Then, as I was being escorted back to the bus, I came across someone who really was giving something away. Well, a party of American evangelists, to be exact, who were on a mission and had been doing out Bibles in Arabic, Kabyl, French and Spanish. Their entire stock had gone.

"I have a gift for you and it's free," one of them said. "It's the only French I know."

## THE GLOBAL GAME

### THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"DANIEL PASSARELLA's luck finally ran out in the dying moments of Saturday's World Cup quarter-final but his fear of losing sowed the seeds of defeat long before. He was picking sides to counter the opposition rather than exploit their own merits, a fact that irritated critics like his former mentor Cesar Luis Menotti

and team-mate Diego Maradona." The Buenos Aires Herald gives its verdict on the returning losers' coach.

"WE NEED to evaluate the cost-benefit of this whole Reggae Boyz promotional exercise. This analysis will help us determine whether the whole exercise was cost-beneficial or if there needs to be changes in

the marketing strategy. We need to look at the episode as a business and use data analysis as a means of quantifying and maximising the benefits we got from it, or our trip to Japan 2002 might just be a joyride for a few influential persons. Yours etc, Airsworth Dick, Kingston 5." Extract from letter to the editor of the Jamaica Gleaner.

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## QUOTES OF THE DAY

What Marcel Desailly and I are today has a lot to do with [Miroslav] Blazevic.

Didier Deschamps, the French midfielder, pays tribute to his ex-Nantes coach and mentor, now the Croatia coach.

I'm not worried about it all blowing up in my face. I'm hungry for success - and I've got big teeth!

France's Emmanuel Petit goes slightly dental on his prospects.

We were under Yugoslavia for 45 years and we couldn't say we were Croats. Now we can.

That's very important for us. Croatia and Derby's defender, Igor Stimac, on the importance of national pride.

THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 8 July 1998





# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

**P**ssst! Want a ticket to see Pulp at Finsbury Park on July 25? Because I can get you 10. Then again, you can get 10 yourself, just by calling up the box office and asking for them. And if you've got a mate with a credit card, he or she can get another 10 tickets at the same time. They're not what you'd call hard to come by.

Or how about the Stones, anywhere in Europe? I've just checked the band's official website and last night's show in Amsterdam was a sell-out, as are the ones in Gothenburg and Hamburg. But those aside, you can go to see them any time between now and the end of September; anywhere from Malaga to Moscow, and you won't have much trouble getting in.

This isn't how it used to be. Ten years ago, stadium rock was the big thing. In the wake of Live Aid, a swing through the stadia was as routine a part of a rock star's life as model girlfriends and tax-avoidance schemes. Anyone who was anyone, and quite a few people who were just Dire Straits or Simple Minds, could count on full houses at Cardiff Arms Park, the Milton Keynes Bowl, Manchester's Maine Road, Leeds' Roundhay Park, Murrayfield in Edinburgh or Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium.

Genuine megastars such as Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Michael Jackson or the Stones could book Wembley Stadium for a three-, four- or even five-night stand, and punters by the hundred thousands would desperately scrabble to stand at the front, where they would be nearly crushed to death while being sprayed with water or watch a bunch of musical ants performing in the far distance.

For one of the little-noticed side effects of Live Aid was that it homogenised pop. With the politics of punk long forgotten, there was a vast rock audience, aged 15-40, who no longer looked on music as a factional struggle between different stylistic tribes. To them, it was all just entertainment. They saw no reason why they could not like Tina Turner and Pink Floyd, Rod Stewart and U2, Genesis and Madonna.

But it isn't like that any more. As the recording end of the business is wracked by plummeting sales and savage cuts to record labels' artist-rosters and staffs, the concert market, too, has been coming under attack. The Lighthouse Family – one act whose CD sales have remained buoyant – cancelled a planned outdoor concert at Finsbury Park, having sold less than 1,000 of the 25,000 tickets on offer. A New Order show, planned for the following night, also had to be pulled. The annual Fleadh festival went ahead at the same venue but was far from packed.

Vince Power, whose Mean Fiddler Organisation promoted all three shows, told the *New Musical Express* that "Promoters, including myself, are very good at making excuses for what's happening, rather than facing the writing on the wall. We talk about the World Cup and ticket prices being too dear, but perhaps the truth is that the acts that are around just aren't big enough. Unfortunately, it seems that a band is only as big as its last album. You don't seem to have any long-gigging bands any more that have a live following."

In part, all that has happened is that fans have switched their allegiances from one-off shows to festivals. But that in itself tells a story. Around 100,000 people will attend the two-day V98 festival, which takes place simultaneously in Leeds and Chelmsford next month. But in order to attract them, promoters have had to schedule more than 20 acts per venue per day, which hardly suggests much faith in the pulling power of current stars.

Even the most established superstars are finding life tougher than it was. When Elton John and Billy Joel toured Britain in June, it should have been a triumphant progress for two men with stunning back catalogues of hits, one of whom had just released the most successful single of all time – the updated "Candle in the Wind". But the trip was dogged by misfortune: Joel fell ill, a Manchester show had to be can-



## Bad news, kids, rock 'n' roll is dead (or at least, in stadiums the world over, it's looking very peaky indeed)

BY DAVID THOMAS

celled and Sir Elton played Wembley as a solo act. Even when both men were still fighting fit, public response had been less than overwhelming. The tour was being advertised right up to the week it began and just one of the four planned shows – the first of two dates at Wembley – sold out.

The tour's promoter, Tim Parsons, claims that the continued advertising was due to the fact that new seats had become available at the last moment. He defiantly told me, "The deal was across all four shows, so even if one show may have lost money, everyone was still making money." Perhaps, but there were empty seats in Glasgow and plenty more at the double-act's shows in Dublin (which Parsons did not promote).

The same might well have applied to the Rolling Stones, had they not cancelled the British leg of their *Bridges to Babylon* tour for tax reasons. Sources at Wembley Stadium say that tickets were selling well for the two Stones shows there, but months after tickets had first gone on sale, there were still 12,000 of the 40,000 seats at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium waiting to be sold, and the band's own website was still showing availability for all the proposed British dates (as, indeed, it continues to do for the vast majority of their Continental venues, including Paris, where the second of two concerts at the Stade de France has been cancelled).

The Stones over-pushed," says Harvey Goldsmith, who has promoted Wembley shows for them and virtually every other rock superstar. "This year they were just

another act. An open-air show has to be something exciting. But there was a feeling they were just doing it for the money. People didn't feel it was an event."

Mick Jagger might take a dim view of that remark. Musicians who have supported the Stones over the past 12 months report that the old codgers are playing better than ever – their advancing years more than compensated for by a new-found sobriety. Not only have they cut costs in search of a fast buck: the *Bridges to Babylon* show has all the vastly expensive, overwhelmingly spectacular Cecil B De Mille-style

view for fans, but cutting capacity from 70,000 to 50,000, all of whom are seated. "Everyone has a seat number and a row number," Moran explains. "That allows parents to feel their children are safe. It would have been a recipe for disaster if they were standing."

For Elton John and the Bee Gees, who will also be at Wembley in September, seating is vital for another reason: their fans are too old to stand. So stadia have to be made as un-slabidium as possible. "Thirtysomethings don't want to sit in a stadium," says Moran. "They're getting older

Even males are having thoughts about the joys of megarock. Today, according to Dave Dorrell, the former music journalist who now manages the British band Bush, "Stadium concerts are over. There are so many new forms of music that rock is just a marginalised genre of its own. There's a lot of struggling to get bums on seats, especially out of London, and it's the same in America. Look at Lollapalooza (the annual US package tour of alternative rock acts). It's dying because they couldn't find anyone to headline who could guarantee big ticket sales."

Dorrell's opinions are certainly not motivated by sour grapes. Last year, Bush headlined Blockstock, a one-day festival in Texas, sponsored by the Blockbuster video chain, which drew 250,000 fans. But the message he received from his band as they came off-stage was, "Let's never do anything that big again." For Dorrell, "Arena shows may be the ceiling. Once it gets any bigger the thing that's missing is emotion and human presence. All it's about is the stage show like a second-rate funfair. But you get better effects at the movies."

Stadium shows have something else in common with the movies: they're horrendously expensive to create. A massive set of the sort used by U2 or the Stones can cost tens of millions of pounds. Millions more are spent keeping the band and their enormous numbers of staff on the road, hiring trucks, paying for air fares, hotel rooms and meals, hiring casual labour to erect and dismantle gigantic stages. If a tour goes well, the profits can be corre-

spondingly gigantic. The Stones' Voodoo Lounge tour of 1994 is said to have grossed around £200 million in ticket sales and merchandising. But the margin between success and failure can be very slim.

Last year, U2 toured the world with the PopMart show, which featured a stage dominated by a McDonald's-style golden arch: a mobile lemon 40 foot high, and a massive olive on a 100-foot cocktail stick. It was the biggest-grossing tour in America during the first half of 1997, but it wasn't as big as it should have been because the band overestimated their fan base, booked too many stadia and pushed ticket prices too high. The story was the same elsewhere.

According to Dave Dorrell, "U2 planned to go on to Asia, but they never went. If you've costed everything on the basis of a full tour, those missing weeks can really hurt your final above-the-line profit."

Amid all the pessimism, Harvey Goldsmith strongly denies that the days of big shows are over: "The Bee Gees tickets," he says, "are 80 per cent gone and Paul Weller is doing a show in Victoria Park (London) in August; 30,000 tickets and they're going very nicely".

He recently promoted Ozzfest, a heavy-metal fiesta at Milton Keynes, headlined by Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath. With the metal-heads' annual day out at Donington not taking place this year, the Ozzfest was the only big show catering to the black leather and studs brigade, who duly turned up en masse.

"It far exceeded my expectations," says Goldsmith. "There were just under 50,000 people and the average age was 18-20. I was amazed how well the bands were received. People were grabbing me by the arm afterwards and saying, 'That's the best fuckin' show I've ever been to.' It was a great day out and there was no trouble at all."

The reason it went so well, according to Goldsmith, is simple. "It's pantomime. The punters get dressed up and have a good time. The artists go out and entertain the people, and give them what they want."

Pantomime and entertainment may be concepts with which a hoary old pro like Ozzy Osbourne is happy to deal, but they don't cut much ice with modern bands. One of the reasons why acts such as Radiohead don't play stadia is not because they can't, but that they refuse to do so. Their spokesperson Terri Hall says, "Radiohead could fill Wembley tomorrow, but they don't want things to become too big. They even felt that their last arena tour was a step too far. Thom [Yorke, the band's singer] felt it wasn't what he wanted."

According to Steve Sutherland, editor of the *New Musical Express*, "All the Britpop bands went under the tabled microscope, and the next generation of bands, who saw that happen, truly do not want anything to do with being pop stars. They don't want to put on a show. Oasis tried that on their *Be Here Now* tour and fell flat on their faces. Having a giant clock on-stage just looked stupid. It was pantomime. It wasn't credible."

So, there you have it. You can either be an ageing pantomime artiste, dress up in silly clothes and hope to goodness your crumbly old fans book their stadium seats before they finally keel over.

Or you can be a moody young thing and restrict yourself to small venues or festivals where you're just one attraction amid a mass of other acts, dance tents, giant TV screens, nipple-piercing booths and dodgy burger stalls.

According to Dave Dorrell, "The underlying question is, how will people take their dose of music in the future? The whole *raison d'être* of music may be changing. I get the feeling that clubbing, which is an attempt to create a holistic approach to music entertainment – with dancing, lights and everything else, in a dedicated environment – may be closer to the model of the future."

That's right, the future consists of a giant club, filled with acid-brained, strobe-dazzled teenies, dancing to mindless, tuneless, hyper-repetitive techno-trash. To which a crumbling thirtysomething can only say, "Come back Wembley. All is forgiven."

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## A man for all reasons

THERE SEEMS to be some confusion about how lobbyists operate, so let me explain the whole thing to you, simply and quietly. Take my own case, for example, from my own everyday life.

I am sitting quietly by myself writing an article in my little office on the 35th floor of Canada Dry, the huge building in Canary Wharf where I work.

What I am doing is writing an article fiercely attacking the way in which in all the bath taps for the Millennium Dome have been supplied by a firm in which Peter Mandelson has a major interest.

I don't know if this is actually true. I suspect it isn't. In fact I'm damn sure it isn't. What I intend to do is write the article first and adjust the facts later, once I have flushed them out into the open. It's an old journalistic

processor and modern it to Canary Wharf. The man sitting in my office in Canary Wharf is actually a decoy Miles Kington, diverting unwelcome intruders from my peaceful home.

He is, if you like, my lobbyist who does my dirty work in London.

"Miles, dear boy. Mind if I come in?"

Startled, I look up at the French windows leading to the palatial garden of my secret home in west Wiltshire. There, smiling in the aperture, is Adrian Wardour-Street, lobbyist supreme.

"Adrian!" I say. "I thought you were hundreds of miles away in Canary Wharf, talking to my doppelganger!"

"Not quite," he says, coming in and making himself at home. "Your doppelganger is talking to someone all right, but it's my doppelganger he's talking to. This is the real me, taking a day out of London. The thing is, old boy, who has got around that you're doing a piece today on how the lobby system works, and I thought it might be nice if we popped out to the local brasserie and talked it through over lunch."

"Adrian," I say, "this is the West Country! There isn't a decent bistro here and..."

"No problem," says Adrian, producing a disused airline trolley brimming over with casserole and galantine. "Now, about the way the lobby works..."

What Adrian doesn't know, of course, is that I am one step ahead of him again. The man he is giving lunch to just this side of Somerset is not me at all, but another stand-in who takes my place at vacation time. I am at present on holiday in the delightful little French town of Douvres-la-Plage, strolling in the market past stall selling caged birds, and wondering if birds are sold here for their song, or to be eaten. After all, in Britain we used to eat sky larks and rook pie... Maybe that is why it is called Canary Wharf. Maybe that's where the cage birds got bought and sold in the old days...

Just then my shoulder is grasped. "Bonjour, Miles," says Adrian Wardour-Street.

"Sorry to interrupt your holiday, but word is going round that you're doing a piece on the historic implications of Canary Wharf, and I think I may be in a position to put you straight. Fact is, canaries were in great demand as gas warnings down coal mines, and it was at Canary Wharf that shiploads of canaries were landed in the old days en route to the coal lodges. Nowadays EU regulations have banned this custom..."

As he drones on about what the government hopes to do for caged songbirds, I dip down an alley and make good my escape. For the moment, anyway. But I hope I have given you some idea of how the lobby works in the real world.

### MILES KINGTON

*The man sitting in my office in Canary Wharf is actually a decoy Miles Kington*

technique. It's known as "Big Feature, Small Apology".

Just as I am writing the heading for the story ("Minister in Massive Plumbing Scandal!"), there is a knock at the door and there stands a lobbyist called, let us say, Adrian Wardour-Street.

"Hi, there, Miles," he says. "Word's around that you're doing a piece on the government/plumbing link. Great! The government is very interested in things like that. Maybe you and I could have lunch, talk things over, have a head-to-head on EU directives on plug design..."

That's what he's for. To help me understand issues and get facts straight. A lobbyist is famous for the way he searches out the truth. What he does with the truth when he finds it is another matter...

"Adrian," I say, "I'd love to have lunch with you. But this is Canary Wharf, for God's sake. There isn't a proper restaurant between here and..."

At this point Adrian pulls in a hamper from the corridor outside, and whisks it open. "Lunch is served. Game pie, dear boy?" he says. "Pâté? Champagne?"

Now, there is one flaw in this scenario. I don't work in Canary Wharf. I really sit in a small house in west Wiltshire, scratching away at my column with an old quill pen, as it has been done in this part of Wilts for over 200 years. I then tap it into a word

## THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

### MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

### TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

### WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

### THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

### FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

### THE INDEPENDENT

Bigger and better



The latest in this week's series celebrating 50 years of the NHS features some furry occupants of the children's ward at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge. Brian Harris

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Orangemen's 'rights'

Sir: The biggest parade Orangemen have mounted over the past ten days is the ceaseless outpouring of mendacity on our television screens by dozens of "loyalist" spokespersons. If they think that their absurd proclamation of their "right" to prance down a small stretch of road where they are not wanted justifies the disruption and violence which their supporters are yet again inflicting upon Ulster so as to remain top dogs convinces a single same person on mainland Britain, they are sadly deceived.

As a United Kingdom taxpayer, I strenuously object to a single penny of my taxes going to defray the already enormous costs to the state of "Drumcree" and its consequences. Parliament should pass emergency legislation making the Orange Order corporately and individually liable for the entire costs of the security operation and all resulting damage.

If we did not realise it before, it is now abundantly apparent that the only "loyalty" these people have is to themselves.

A E G WRIGHT  
London NW2

Sir: A solution to the stand-off at Drumcree would be for the loyalist marchers to follow their traditional route and then a day later the nationalist community to march over the same roads with their own banners and music. Then freedom of speech and assembly would have been upheld and toleration of opposing views applied: in fact, democracy.

JONATHAN NEWCOMBE  
Huddersfield

### Act now in Kosovo

Sir: As happened over Bosnia, the European Union is dithering over Kosovo. When Paddy Ashdown and Robert Fisk (Comment, 3 July, 30 June) come to a similar conclusion about the impending catastrophe, the EU governments should take note - and take action.

In the last parliament, there was only a small group of us who consistently urged military action in place of the pusillanimity of our then government and the rest of the EU. It is only by air strikes now against Serb attacks in Kosovo that an enlarged conflagration can be halted. As Ashdown and Fisk agree, the KLA are there to stay and may pursue not autonomy within Serbia (which Milosevic withdrew some years ago) but independence. It would be more realistic now to accept that independence is inevitable and to make political preparations for the resulting changes in Albania and Macedonia. But first, and imminently, air strikes must be mounted against Milosevic's murderous actions in Kosovo.

ANDREW FAULDS  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
Warwickshire

Sir: Paddy Ashdown's hidden agenda is to reconcile an eventual Greater

Albania with the inviolability of present borders ("We must intervene in Kosovo now", 3 July).

He would force Serbia into granting Kosovo autonomy "broadly along the lines enjoyed by Montenegro". This can only mean a federal unit with the right to secede. His logic would appear to be that internal administrative lines defining federal units, such as Croatia, were inviolable, but not the international frontier between Serbia and Albania dating back to 1912; Serbia can be eventually partitioned but not Bosnia; and Kosovo should as a first step have its autonomy restored, but the Krajina Serbs' former constitutional status as one of Croatia's two historical nations need not be restored, let alone their right of return to their ancestral Krajina lands.

To recognise the Kosovo Albanians' right to self-determination would also be destabilising. In the first instance, Macedonia's integrity would be imperilled, given its large Albanian minority. Then it might be the turn of Slovakia and Romania, both harbouring a large Hungarian minority. And so on.

The only principled action open to Nato at present is to stem the flow of weapons to the KLA by sealing Albania's border with Kosovo. This would provide a breathing spell during which violence would subside and the position of the pacifist Rugova be strengthened against the terrorist KLA, thus paving the way for a resumption of talks.

YUGO KOVACH  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex

### Classical radio

Sir: The justification for a public service radio station is that (a) it caters for an audience that is not catered for elsewhere, and (b) the audience consists of more than an esoteric handful of devotees.

We have recently been regaled with the costs of Covent Garden. Even if no one attended more than once in a year its total audience would amount to no more than 800,000. For the listener who enjoyed substantial parts of the historic Radio 3/Third Programme output, there was no alternative station, public or commercial. We then need to consider how many of these people there are, and what the state, via the BBC, is prepared to spend on them. Only then does it make sense to discuss how much of the appropriate output is cheap recorded playtime, how much modestly costly live chamber music played by young hopefuls, and how much very costly in-house symphony orchestras, and so on ("A classic dilemma for the BBC as Radio 3's controller departs", 7 July).

Like many British institutions, Radio 3 has been the victim of conflicting agendas.

One can only see the huge establishment of orchestras as some sort of national symbol - a sort of cultural gun-boast. If that is wanted by the powers that be, fair enough. But, if they are then going to compare the cost with the cost per listener-hour of Classic FM, they are

being disingenuous, if not plain silly.

Only thinking based on the crudest number-crunching could have justified the panic in recent years in reaction to Classic FM. The two stations were catering for an audience that wanted only R3-type output, another that wanted only CFM-type output, and another that wanted a bit (or lot) of both.

Personally, I did not listen to CFM,

and now find that there is much less to listen to on R3.

While anyone would regret lower employment of living musicians, if the choice is between a diet of complete works on disc and one of snippets of tunes from the classics, I would favour the former because CFM provides the latter, and it is silly to duplicate. I am not sneering at CFM. For those who care about the future of music, it provides a vital introductory function from which future R3 audiences may be expected to come.

It makes no sense to conduct the debate with vague figures of 2.6 million listeners to Radio 3 and 5 million to CFM. We need, at least, some indication of listener-hours to set against the millions of pounds.

I suspect both stations would do better if they abandoned their obsession with "children's hour" jolly presenters. The BBC would have a better claim if it provided decent FM signals throughout populated Britain. Don't come and live here if you want decent reception.

BRIAN ALLT  
Sudbury,  
Suffolk

### Killers of Bills

Sir: Michael Brown's parliamentary sketch "Government whip plays Guy Fawkes with Private Members' hopes" (4 July) was highly misleading for two reasons.

First, in commenting on the blocking of Bills by Eric Forth MP he states "Mr Forth is not, as his critics would have us believe, anti-democratic. He believes it is wrong to smuggle legislation through Parliament without debate." Just two of the Bills killed show that the idea that Mr Forth's blocking tactics are designed to "ensure debate" is nonsense.

The Fireworks Bill was passed by the full House of Commons in December. Since then it has had a committee stage, report stage and then been given a third reading by the full House. It has also been approved by the full House of Lords. Yet Mr Forth and one or two of his Tory colleagues imposed their will on both Houses of Parliament on Friday last by talking the Bill out.

The Energy Efficiency Bill had a five-hour debate at second reading in January and a full committee stage in March. Since then every MP has had three months to table amendments for last Friday's report stage. None did - thus the report stage was a formality. Yet by shouting "object" on Friday Mr Forth imposed his will on that of the full House of Commons.

Mr Brown is also misleading in comparing this with the action of the Government whip Jim Dowd

MP in blocking "29 Bills in five minutes". As a result Mr Brown calls Mr Dowd "the real Guy Fawkes".

However, the Bills that Mr Dowd "blocked" were Bills that had been presented, either formally or with a ten-minute speech, simply to raise issues or start campaigns. They had bad no debate and no approval from the House: as such they were not designed to become law - at least not yet. It is wrong to compare the so-called blocking of these Bills with Mr Forth's blocking of Bills that had been approved by the House.

RON BAILEY  
Parliamentary Co-ordinator  
Friends of the Earth  
London N1

### No legal fix

Sir: Paul McCann ("How Martin joined the ranks of the rich and famous", 30 June) repeats an allegation contained in the *Daily Mail* of 24 June that Martin Bashir "promised to get Louise Woodward into King's College to study law". As I pointed out in a letter to the *Daily Mail* published on 29 June, "No one can 'fix it' for Ms Woodward or anyone else to study law or anything else at King's College London. This Law School and King's College as a whole admit students only on the basis of academic and other relevant abilities".

I find it surprising that no steps were taken to check the accuracy of the allegation with the college - particularly when your reporter appears to have taken the trouble to check parts of his story with the BBC.

Professor ROBIN MORSE  
Head of the School of Law  
King's College London  
London WC2

### Church divided

Sir: You are correct to voice concern over the developments in the Roman Catholic Church (leading article, 3 July). Some commentators would claim that the reform of the Church has been hampered from the beginning by the failure of even the "reforming Popes" to revise the membership of the hierarchy in general and the Curia in particular.

However, the Church is more than just the hierarchy, and such writers as the late Bishop Butler correctly pointed out that the role of the Pope, and in fact his infallibility, depended in earlier times on the perceived guidance of the Holy Spirit within the body of the faithful.

Sadly, we can spend much time in the Church being either "progressive" or "traditional" and thus perhaps assuming a predetermined position over every issue, whilst the Vatican can hardly gain in credibility by attempting an authoritarian position.

Whilst we are spending energy on our internal tensions we are failing in our mission to be the serving presence of God to humanity at this moment of history. Perhaps Bede Griffiths was correct when he asked, has the established church reached a position similar to that of Judaism

which brought about the reforms of Jesus?

J S McLORINAN  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

Sir: Owen Gwynne (letter, 2 July) is of course quite free to believe in a "God" of his own choosing who inhabits those 90 per cent non-rational bits of his experience and personality. In fact *this is no more than Blake's view that "all deities reside in the human breast"*. Interestingly, this is very much the Sea of Faith position, which sees religion as a human creation. Needless to say, traditional monotheism is scornful of such views.

The veracity of theism must link two poles: cosmology (what is out there) and evolutionary psychology (how we have come to know what is out there). On the basis of modern knowledge in both these areas we are in a position to understand that religious belief in some ultimate being is a fiction of human design - perhaps a necessary fiction, explanatory of the kind of beings we are, but a fiction none the less.

Fr DOMINIC KIRKHAM  
Minster

Sir: In his attempt to defend the lobbying industry, Charles Miller (Right of Reply, 7 June) has skilfully managed to avoid the most worrying aspect of his members' business: that they operate by exploiting their ability to make political contacts in return for money. The "people whom [we] elect and whose salaries [we] pay" are supposed to act for all of us, not just those who can afford the lobbyists' fees.

PETER WILKINS  
Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: Austin Spreadbury takes me to task for ignoring existing EU tax harmonisation (Letters, 3 July). Of course, a limited harmonisation of VAT and excise duties came in with the Single Market in 1992, and similar measures for tax on interest are now being discussed. It can even be said that harmonisation of corporation tax and energy taxes are on the table, albeit in terms of co-operation, not legislation. What is beyond the realms of probability is harmonisation of income tax, let alone the harmonisation of tax burdens and eventually welfare provisions".

GREGORY WILLIAMS  
Watford, Hertfordshire

Sir: English is not the only language which permits *tmesis*, the insertion of one word in the middle of another ("Words, 2 July); you wouldn't need to travel very far to hear Welsh speakers add emphasis to their word for "hopeless" (*anobethiol*) by saying *anobethioldebethiol*. This is quite common in speech.

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## The spectre of sleaze will not be exorcised by spin doctors

FOR A government that is supposedly built on PR, the past three days have been remarkably inept. When the "cash for access" story broke at the weekend, the government's first response was silence. That at least had the merit of honesty. Now it has gone on the attack, its line, however, is disingenuous to the extreme. The *Observer* journalists who spoke to Roger Liddle of the Downing Street Policy Unit at a cocktail party did not tape record their conversation. That is the sum of the Government's defence. Apparently the absence of a tape recording means that we can all sleep easily at night in the knowledge that the Government is as squeaky clean as it claims.

If ever there has been a more blatant and tawdry attempt to obscure an issue, we have yet to see it. The two journalists apparently made a detailed contemporaneous note of their conversation with Mr Liddle. But Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, has now added the setting of new judicial precedents to his duties. It is normal practice for policemen to use their notebooks in court as evidence. And when journalists have had to give evidence, judges have almost always accepted contemporaneous notes as a true record. According to Mr Campbell, however, the only valid evidence is a tape recorded conversation.

This is laughable stuff and fools no one. It is perfectly possible that Mr Liddle is indeed without blemish and that the specific allegations against him are baseless. But the wider question of the role and influence of lobbyists and a propensity towards cronyism is of pressing concern. When the electorate voted in such numbers to remove the Conservatives it did so not least because it was sick of sleaze.

Labour promised to be whiter than white. At best it is greyer than grey. Mr Blair let a day go by in opposition without calling for some wretched member of the last Government to be investigated. That the Government now has the cheek to argue that it can ignore valid concerns about its own behaviour defies belief. The issues raised go to the heart of good governance and are precisely the sort of thing that Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life should be charged with investigating. The Government should announce that is referring the entire matter to Lord Neill immediately and show that it takes these issues seriously.

If the Government thinks that, by shutting its eyes and bopping, things will blow over, it is sorely out of touch with the real world. The more it seeks to close down



the story, and the more it wriggles around on dubious explanatory defences, the more it gives credence to the notion that there really is something for it to be ashamed of.

Lobbyists are an ever-present and, in some cases, necessary part of government. If, for instance, a trade association wishes to press for a change in the law, it needs expert advice as to how best to achieve its end. That is perfectly proper. Where lobbying descends into sleaze is when politicians allow themselves to work too closely with lobbyists who peddle their access to and influence on government. This is a government that is supposedly committed to freedom of information. If the

process of government, let alone the information it holds, was more open then there would be less scope for the Derek Drapers of this world to "stuff their bank accounts" on the back of their address books. At the moment, however, this is a government which seeks to have it both ways – a supposed commitment to open government at the same time as a dependence on a closed "circle" (as in Mr Draper puts it) of those who are of "the project" (as Mr Blair himself puts it) – whether employed in government or lobby companies. This is the heart of the problem, and as long as government remains so incestuous, this is a story that will not go away.

## Don't bully the homeless

IF A tendency towards cronyism is one of the government's most damaging flaws, another is its penchant for authoritarianism. Say a big hello to the Homelessness Tsar, who joins his all-powerful namesake, the Drug Tsar. We will ignore the contradiction in terms: there can, by definition, only be one all-powerful emperor. The government seems to think that the best way to attack a problem is to appoint a Tsar. No doubt Eddie George will soon be rechristened Interest Rate Tsar. At times, this seems to be a government obsessed with the worst kind of superficiality.

Look underneath the gloss, however, and some of the Social Exclusion Unit's actual recommendations make a lot of sense. If Welfare To Work is to be fully effective, it needs to deal with those who are so far on the edge of society that in many cases they are not even on welfare. Removing the normal six month wait to join the Gateway (the entry into the Government's training programme) should help with cutting through many of the most stupid bureaucratic problems. As the Government recognises, the only lasting route out of any form of poverty is a job. And any improvement in linking the approach of separate departments – Department of Social Security, Department of Education and Employment, and local authorities – is to be welcomed.

But alongside these sensible ideas looms the worrying authoritarian side of the Government. Most of those who sleep on the streets are there because they feel they have no choice. Providing more hostels is, of course, sensible. But acceptance of a hotel bed should be entirely voluntary. Many of the homeless have fled violence at home. For perfectly sensible reasons, they shy away from hostels full of junkies and violence. Beyond that, for others sleeping on the streets is a perfectly valid – if rather difficult to understand – lifestyle choice. It is no business of government to tell people where they should sleep.

## Spice up the clergy

THE SYNOD of the Church of England has decided to advertise for Bishops in an attempt to attract more "relevant" candidates. Successful applicants will presumably be under 40 and connected to the upper echelons of the Labour Party. Or perhaps Chris Evans? Or what about a new career in theology for that role model to a generation, Ginger Spice? Any other takers?

# Welcome to the ideology-free world of the New Labour lobbyist

TEN YEARS ago I received an invitation from Derek Draper to address his Labour Student Club. Out of all the thousands of meetings I have done, you might ask why this one meeting is still so clear in my memory.

There was about an hour to go before my train to London and so Derek invited myself and several others back to his bedsit for coffee. I have never forgotten the shock, as I walked in, to see hanging above his bed a vast photograph of Roy Hattersley.

Later that week I took considerable pleasure in informing Roy he had a fan, but no sooner had Derek come to London than he ditched Roy and attached himself to the rising star of Peter Mandelson. Oddly enough I have always found Derek a charming and entertaining companion on the frequent occasions when our paths have quite crossed since then.

Derek is a typical – but perhaps the most extreme – example of all the bright young apparatchiks who orbit the star of New Labour. Not quite Walter Mitty but sufficiently barry to be good fun as the night wears on. Unfortunately far too many of them have been transmogrified from loyal party apparatchiks into ghastly new lobbyists.

What is extraordinary about the access of lobbyists to senior policy-makers and even politicians is not the hyperbole and self-importance of these overpaid young men, but the real problem of democracy which it implies.

It is partly a product of the approach of a small clique of political activists in the Labour Party who regard ideology as an aberration. They have

become known as the Millbank Tendency, but in fact, they call themselves The Project. It may sound like an episode from *The X-Files*, but it is a lot worse than that.

What has been revealed is that a group of lobbyists with good connections in government have exploited those connections. That may be corrupt in the sense that parliamentary democracy has long ceased to be a level playing field – you don't have to be rich to play, but it helps.

But it is not the corruption of the last Tory administration, in which politicians took cash to manipulate Parliament itself. No politicians have been implicated in the revelations. None of the lobbyists paid anything to any MPs, although they certainly got paid quite a lot themselves.

But these are not just lobbyists. They are activists too. There is a significant cross-over between those who lobby on behalf of massive corporations, and those who run the little groups of foot-soldiers in the Labour Party and who claim to speak on behalf of the rank and file.

The party has gone so far to the right that most of the bright young things see ideology as wrapping paper



**KEN LIVINGSTONE**

*The party has gone so far to the right that most of the bright young things see ideology as wrapping paper*

Thatcherite agenda. Their political opinions make fascinating reading.

The most effective right-wing backs have been sucked into lobbying and policy wonking, a sort of self-perpetuating little group – The Project – whose access not only to ministers but to each other and to full-time Labour Party officials is well beyond the reach of the ordinary party members.

One of the reasons Derek Draper is so attractive a commodity in the lobbying world is that he has his own political education magazine, *Progress*, giving him a base in the party that makes his profile more genuine.

It is no exaggeration to say that there is virtually a generation of young Labour Party hacks who are both activists for groupings such as the Young Fabians, the LCC, Labour

2000 and Progress, and are simultaneously part of a network of lobbyists, corporations and policy wonks.

The other big name in this week's revelations is of course the ever-love Roger Liddle, whom I have known even longer than Derek Draper. We first crossed swords at a meeting of the London Labour Party regional executive in 1981.

Islington North Labour Party had so dissolved into anarchy that it could not select a candidate to fight the forthcoming GLC election. Three meetings had been abandoned as the local party was deadlocked between the left-wing candidate Steve Bundred and Roger Liddle. Finally the Regional Executive decided we would select the candidate.

While most of the right-wing members of the executive wanted to support Roger, several of them were worried that he might be about to defect and join the SDP which was soon to be launched. Roger left no doubt in any of our minds, as he assured us that he had no intention of ever leaving the Labour Party, and he felt insulted and humiliated that question had even been posed.

A few months later Roger defected to the SDP, but like most of the people at that night's selection meeting, I had no doubts that this had been a difficult decision arrived at only at the last minute.

Imagine my surprise therefore when a decade later, when all the definitive histories of the SDP were finally published, I read that Roger had gone straight from our meeting to a caucus with Roy Jenkins and the Gang of Four where they had planned

the actual mechanism for the establishment of the SDP.

I assume Roger won't be calling myself or any other members of the then London Labour Party executive as a character witness if this all ends up in the libel courts.

William Hague can bluster for the resignation of Roger Liddle as much as he likes. He won't be sacked and he won't resign because he has not done anything even approaching the level of filth and sleaze that helped destroy the Tory party at the last election. Nonetheless, it is a bizarre quirk of fate that it should be Mr Liddle, whose presence at the heart of power is symbolic of the changes in the Labour Party, who should have become the focus of the controversy.

Having been an advisor to the last Labour government, Mr Liddle was one of the renegades who helped put Labour in opposition for nearly two decades by splitting the party and forming the SDP. He supported the Liberal SDP merger, the Alliance. The Liberal Democrats even writing their 1995 European manifesto before seeing the light and rejoining the Labour Party. He has not changed, but the Labour Party's approach to politics certainly has, and that is part of the problem.

The contempt in which some of the lobbyists hold Labour politicians was

revealed by Neal Lawson, one of the lobbyists quoted in Sunday's exposé,

who says: "The Labour Government is always in one of two minds; it operates in a kind of schizophrenia." Perhaps it is time for the Labour Government to make its mind up about The Project.

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity plummets



mine all the endeavours and ambitions of Israel to control the policies and the economies of the Arab world."

"It is for the benefit of the Arabs to have this Netanyahu remain President of Israel, he behaves like an unleashed bull which destroys everything and which, eventually, will under-

mine the Palestinians have no rights...? A referendum for Bibi to conduct would be a moral assessment of the way Israel was established and how a whole country of innocent people was taken away from them against their will. how

millions of Palestinian refugees have no hope of ever returning to their land and how countless innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, have been massacred in order to appease the appetite of a Frankenstein, who obviously has no moral conscience and is ruthless in his behaviour towards the Palestinians, who still dare to dwell on what is left of their own land."

Editorial in "Palestine Times"

"As for Netanyahu, he wants it both ways. First he wants to continue denying Palestinians a state inside the negotiations. Then he wants to make sure the Palestinians do not get a state outside the negotiations. Do not leave the table, he gravely warns, even as he denies the Palestinians satisfaction at the table. In his self-focus, he seems oblivious to what is surely the basic political fact of the 20th century, that one people cannot rule another without its consent. Or, if he is not oblivious, he has just not mustered the political courage to cut his ties to his extremist coalition partners."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I accept that I am guilty of being an occasional big-mouth, but nothing else." Derek Draper, suspended lobbyist and former Peter Mandelson aide

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you live long enough, you will find that every victory turns into a defeat." Simone de Beauvoir, French author

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## PANDORA

"I CAN get to see Ed Balls," Derek Draper reportedly told *The Observer's* investigative reporter. This astonishing boast made jaws drop across the nation – and throughout the Treasury – on Sunday morning. How brazen and, frankly, incredible of Draper to claim that he could gain access to the Chancellor's 31-year-old chief economic advisor who, according to Pandora's sources, is the most difficult man to meet in the entire Government.

"It's literally easier to meet with Tony Blair than it is to see Ed Balls," a source told Pandora this week. "I know of at least one case in which, having been refused a meeting with Balls, some corporate high-fliers turned to Downing Street and were able to sit down with the Prime Minister the very next day." Another source – again insisting on anonymity – described a constant queue of Treasury officials waiting hopefully outside Balls' office. If Draper can arrange a meeting with Balls, then he is – a man with almost superhuman powers within the "Charmed Circle". At the very least, he sure can swagger with style.

**SUPERMARKET** chain Asda gave away 100,000 free peaches to children this weekend as a protest over an EU ban on under-sized fruit. This must be especially gratifying for Archie Norman, chief executive of the Conservative Party and chairman of Asda, as it allowed him to express his fervent eno-septicism while promoting his own business interests. It also suggests to Pandora an appropriately belligerent campaign slogan for William Hague's New Tories: "We'll fight them on the peaches."

In his letter to *The Times* of 1 July, Alastair Campbell (right) poured scorn on the BBC's programme *The World at One*, writing, "Very few people – in politics or the media – take *The World at One* seriously." So where was Peter Mandelson yesterday, commenting on the behaviour of his former aide Derek Draper? *The World at One*, of course. Can we conclude that



Downing Street is not taking this matter seriously?

**HOW FLATTERING** to receive a personal note from Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, along with a press release for a Burke's Peerage Mastercard. (The impoverished landed gentry will be pleased to learn that this "aristocrat of credit cards" is also available in a gold card version "for those who earn over £20,000".) "We have greatly admired the contents of your diary," Brooks-Baker writes to Pandora, "especially when they relate to royal matters." As readers know well, this diary never misses an opportunity to laud the Royals. But which forelock-tugging items did he most enjoy? A telephone call cleared this up immediately. B-B said, "I read every newspaper imaginable, every day. At the end of it, I can't remember what I've read."

**IT'S TRUE**, our American cousins sometimes do lack a sense of irony. The latest proof came yesterday in Liz Smith's gossip column for the *New York Post*. While plugging the new blockbuster *Armageddon*, Liz compares it to *Deep Impact* and asserts, without a nano-shred of irony, "They are as unlike as any two asteroid movies can be." She adds helpfully, "Deep Impact is sort of the thinking man's disaster movie."

**THE MAILSACKS** have been piling up with offers of support for our Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign. (To the man who sent in the yellow shoulder strap spattered with reddish fluid: this Campaign adheres to strict principles of non-violence!) A typical example of the impassioned support Pandora has been receiving was the note from Judy Marshall of Dulwich in south London. "Congratulations on your Campaign. I was quite reading 'The Independent' perched on a bar stool in Victoria Street Pret-a-Manger when a hoot from a rucksack fell me to the ground. Yours truly... All we can say is, Judy, you are not alone. (Watch this space for an announcement of the Campaign's first demonstration.)

## Where did the rest of the term go?

**BURN-OUT** brought on by the traumas of GCSE exams, seems to have struck down the nation's 16-year-olds. They lie in bed, or snuggle down to watch daytime TV. The fitter and more determined may perhaps summon the energy to play a little sport, or gloomily seek a dwindling supply of temporary jobs.

Alas, burn-out has hit the country's staff rooms, too. Teachers, suffering their own post-invigilation trauma, have lost the will to teach. All over the country, 16-year-olds have been told the term is over, wished the very best of luck and sent out into the long summer break.

The curious thing is that the school term still has two weeks to run. As GCSEs finished a week ago, that means that nearly a third of the term is quietly written off.

I would not want to take action over this myself, as I have a son in the throes of post-GCSE burn-out trauma, and a small thing like a legal challenge could send him right off the rails. But doesn't our council tax cover a whole term's teaching? Someone, somewhere, will bring a test case to the High Court soon, I hope.

**EDUCATION** finishes for the year when the last exam paper has been handed in. What a retrograde signal to give, not only to 16-year-olds but to school students of every



DAVID LISTER

*Every summer teachers blow the chance to show their charges what real education for life is about*

The national banishment of the 16-year-olds is also politically suspect. Didn't Tony Blair say that his three biggest priorities were "education, education, education"?

Clearly, he had in mind a different three "e's: exams, exams, exams.

Education finishes for the year when the last exam paper has been handed in. What a retrograde signal to give, not only to 16-year-olds but to school students of every

age who watch their 16-year-old colleagues vanish at the end of every June.

I'm not recommending the sadistic procedure that existed when I was at school, which was to return to regular, timetabled lessons as soon as exams were over – as if the whole appalling, stressed-out, hay-fever-ridden turmoil had been a figment of the imagination.

A change of pace is desirable, a change from the core curriculum a well deserved diversion. But surely teachers can come up with something a little more imaginative than saying, "That's it, see you in the sixth form, or good luck with your career. Now scram!"

Perhaps some students (mainly those leaving school at the end of term to go into full time employment) might be loath to return once exams were over. But those staying on in full-time education still feel a sense of belonging to their schools. Would it even have occurred to them that their term was over at the end of June if their teachers had not simply written them off?

There is another way: an imagi-

native use of time and resources that can demonstrate there is more to education than examinations.

The post-GCSE month could include a national education-for-life course. Take your pick from learning to cook; learning the rudiments of driving and motor car maintenance; learning how to open a bank account.

What better time or age for the much advocated but rarely delivered education for parenting? This could range from basic skills lessons – from changing a nappy to running a household budget – to more academic discussions on child rearing and gender roles.

Parents who were not at work could bring in their own babies, join in these lessons, and contribute their own advice. Instead of a country of bored teenage boys and girls, we could have a post-GCSE nation of new men and women.

Citizenship is also much advocated by Tony Blair and his ministers. A month-long citizenship course involving visiting speakers and going to see decision-making bodies in action – such as local councils, health authorities and the

Houses of Parliament – could easily be drawn up at a national level.

Alternatively, students could work in hospitals and help the sick and elderly. These courses could serve as models for a national scheme, with certificates of citizenship awarded at the end.

Indeed, it is not just 16-year-olds whose schooling ends as soon as exams end. A-level students also make an exit at the end of external examinations.

But a three-week education-for-university course would be a logical option for them. It could include the basic literacy and numeracy that universities are always saying their students lack; it could offer general science for humanities students; it could provide a basic sex-and-drugs, pre-college navigation course.

Teachers complain regularly and with some justification about the restrictions and narrowness of the national curriculum. Every summer they have the chance for the best part of a month to show their charges what real education for life is all about. Every summer they blow it.

## How the MoD came to rewrite our foreign policy



MICHAEL CLARKE

*The Strategic Defence Review has set up some key strategic questions that it hasn't answered*

**THE GOVERNMENT'S** Strategic Defence Review, out today, is more important for what it doesn't announce than what it does. No surprises were intended, for New Labour is anxious to reinforce its credentials as a steady government in whose hands defence will be safe.

That means no major cuts in the front line or in any of the roles British forces will play in the world. And although New Labour is determined to divert more cash to health and education, major shifts in resources will not come from the Ministry of Defence – not this time anyway.

In a victory that has heartened the MoD, George Robertson has fought a hard and successful campaign against the Treasury, which scoffed at the £500m he originally seemed to have offered them as the MoD's contribution to the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review. The leeks have been minimal. The Armed Services seem reasonably content – for them it might have been worse – and the Ministry can sit back exhausted but satisfied after its biggest review since 1957.

Certainly, the SDR has served a range of useful purposes. And it was unavoidable anyway, since Labour's defence policy in opposition was to call for a review. Once in government, it originally intended to get it out of the way within six months.

But reviews take on a life of their own, and the 50-odd internal working groups got their teeth into a series of management reforms. These are to identify useful rationalisations in the support areas, help centralise decision-making, strengthen civilian control over the military, and treat the MoD like a major company that can make savings from economies of scale, de-stocking and out-sourcing. All of which helps get the Treasury off the MoD's back.

The SDR has also taken important steps to complete the reorientation of the armed forces for the world after the Cold War, by making them more capable of small-scale operations in places other than the centre of Europe. (The two 40-50,000 tonne aircraft carriers to be announced today will help fit the bill – if they are not cancelled before they get round to building them.)

The armed forces are already operating in the service of the UN or a coalition of Western allies around the world, but the SDR will help them do it without having to resort to the miracles of improvisation that have produced far too many "close run things" in recent years.

The SDR has also provided the gloves with which the MoD can grasp some of the nettles that would otherwise have been even more painful – big cutbacks in the Territorial Army and a change in its role;

at least half an answer to "what the hell can we use the Parachute Regiment for?"; measures to move the Army away from too much dependence on heavy armour; reforming the equipment procurement

process; and at long last, a frank recognition that our armed forces count for little if we can't get them to the operation quickly, and in strength.

Grasping this last nettle implies an important shift of resources from some of the more glamorous weapons and regiments to the transport which carries them.

The review has been vigorously "foreign policy driven" by George Robertson – if only to make sure that it would not be "Treasury driven" – and as a result the SDR has launched initiatives in "defence diplomacy". This means using the forces much less to defend the homeland and more to serve our broader foreign policy interests, by helping to manage international crises, avoid conflicts, help new democracies manage their old military establishments, and so on.

Not least, the MoD has talked to the ranks as well as the Chiefs of Staff over 7,000 service personnel were consulted by the Liaison Team and as a result the MoD now knows

– if it didn't before – that there is a long-term morale problem in the forces. Around 40 per cent of the armed forces – expensively trained

– leave their service within the first five years. The MoD may hope and believe that the SDR puts defence on a stable plateau for the future, but the ranks don't believe it; for them this is yet another review and there will be more pain to come.

Are they right? Probably yes, but not for the reasons they believe. For all its virtues, the SDR is an internal management review within the MoD. It has not been as "strategic" as the MoD would have us believe, and has made some important assumptions that may not stand up over the next few years.

It talks about the necessity of preparing for multi-national opera-



British soldiers on manoeuvres in Egypt last year

tions, but has spent very little time co-ordinating the review with our allies. It makes an implicit assumption that our forces must be able to "fit" with those of the United States, and that we have to maintain major force elements – the "heavy metal" – so that the US takes us seriously. But how much thinking has been done about changes in the US-British relationship, about the future of the Europeans without the Americans sometimes, or whether it is still in Britain's long-term interests to be the junior military partner of the US?

Above all, with its expansive rhetoric about Britain's role in the world, why hasn't this sort of review been conducted across the whole of Whitehall? If we are really conducting a foreign-policy led review, why aren't we reviewing Britain's external security relations as a whole?

In addition to the Foreign Office, this would involve Claire Short's Overseas Development department on the role of aid in security; the DIT and Customs and Excise on defence sales, narcotics and small arms; the intelligence services and the Home

Office on terrorism and international crime; and the Environment Department on dangers of environmental collapse around Europe or the Mediterranean.

It is not enough to say that the Foreign Office or the MoD "takes a lead" within Whitehall on these sorts of issues. That usually means co-ordinating policy, not necessarily thinking it through coherently.

The same analyst would wish yet another review on the MoD. But the pressure from the Treasury will not go away and reviews cannot only be "Treasury chased". Eventually Gordon Brown's men will catch up.

More to the point, this review has set up some key strategic questions that it hasn't answered, but which events in the next few years will answer for it. We do need another review, rather than the MoD alone, and our civil service approach the world around them.

Professor Michael Clarke is director of the Centre for Defence Studies at King's College London

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## Rhetoric won't stop the world's wild men



PODIUM

LORD JUDD  
A speech to the United Nations Association  
on behalf of the  
Commission on  
Global Governance

national. Almost all are within national boundaries. What is our strategic analysis on the implications of this for a world based on the sovereignty of the nation state? The biggest single challenge to the evolution of global governance is how we find international mechanisms to ensure accountable government, human rights and cultural self-respect before the ethnic entrepreneurs and the wild men take over.

The huge organisation and expenditure mobilised to deal with Iraq stands in stark contrast to the small scale or total absence of action over Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, the March Arabs, Chechnya, Nagorno-Karabakh or East Timor.

If we accept the inescapability of international interdependence, it is essential to examine the international dimensions of governance. This quickly brings us to the hypocrisy, contradictions and confusions which currently confront us.

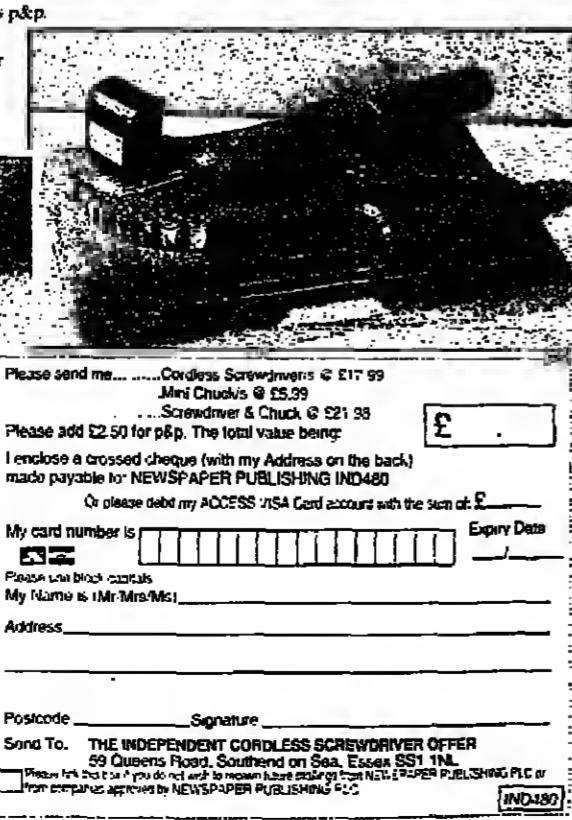
There is a multiplicity of international institutions with different levels of engagement and commitment into which players dip at their convenience. Divide and fail applies. I suggest, in effect, even if not in intent. With the end of the cold war there was a good deal of rhetoric about the regeneration of the UN: but where is the evidence?

Strengthened conflict-resolution capabilities and effective policing of the arms trade – backed by long overdue codes of practice and generous resources for hard-headed arms substitution and conversion programmes. and, above all,

pre-emptive, proactive diplomacy, rather than reactive diplomacy – are all indispensable elements for a credible UN.

Examining the challenges to be overcome, the Commission on Global Governance (of which I was a member), chaired by Sonny Ramphal, the former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, firmly concluded that the UN was indispensable but also that it was in need of radical reform.

The commission held that it should become task-oriented, rather than institutionally oriented. While, therefore, we felt that the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development could be better handled by other parts of the UN system, perhaps our most far-reaching proposal was for the creation of an Economic Security Council, or at least the same status as the existing Security Council, and within which the issues affecting the survival of humanity would be addressed.



لهم اجل

# term go. So much more than just a game



MARCUS TANNER

*Sport has become the means by which Croatia presents itself to the world*

"WE WERE like soldiers on the pitch, making our country recognised," said Croatian defender Slaven Bilić. That was last Saturday, when Croatia's stunning 3-0 victory over Germany catapulted this small nation towards the front-runners of the World Cup. Victory was sweet enough against the Croats' German allies. But the celebration in Zagreb will be much more ecstatic tonight if the Croats humble their old enemy France, the nation which, with Russia, did most under President Mitterrand to block their pathway out of Yugoslavia towards independence. That will be the moment that Croatia's President Franjo Tuđman - who shared a box on Saturday with his old patron Helmut Kohl - truly savours.

Bilić's military tone came naturally enough from a team with members who fought in a real war - against the Serbs in 1991 and 1992. Almost all of them lost relatives or close friends in the fighting. And, of course, it is all about recognition; about a small nation making itself heard on the playing field after the diplomats and, to an extent the soldiers, had failed to bring home the honours from the battlefield and council chamber. Croatia has been formally recognised since 1992, but its authoritarian President remains a pariah and the country of only 4.7 million has suffered isolation because of him.

Croatia has been pushed to the bottom of the waiting list to join the European Union - below even Romania. Feeling it a victim of Serb aggression, but somehow cast in the role of aggressor - against its own Serbs, or the Muslims in Bosnia - it remains a frustrated country. And hovering in the background is the still un-exorcised ghost of the NDH, the fascist, Jew-hating, Serb-killing quisling state Mussolini set up in the Second World War.

Rising, or rather riding, over this sorry background of failed hopes and economic misery are the redemptive and clean-cut figures of the Croat sportsmen: of Davor Šuker, Zvonimir Boban and - in tennis - Goran Ivanisević. No wonder Croats call their football team the "Knights". To a nation more than usually afraid of not existing (which was the problem in the old Serbo-Croat war.



Children playing football on the streets of Dubrovnik's old town

Jack Picone/Network

Yugoslavia), or of its existence not being noticed at all (which is the problem today), the Knights are living proof that Croatia does exist - and conquers. Croats see their national team quite literally as *državotorni* - statebuilding - a cumbersome phrase in English, but one loaded with implication in old Yugoslavia.

Not for Croats the Serbian cult of the Kosovo Battle of 1389: of defeat that is more glorious and somehow more cleansing than victory. For the Croats, who lost their independence shortly after the Battle of Hastings and didn't recover it until 1992, victories provide no comfort. They want to win, and now. They did defeat the Serbs militarily in 1995, but even then were stung by the accusation that this was thanks to American help and that their victory was accompanied by atrocities against the Serbs.

The old, pre-1992 Serbian saloon-bar joke still rings that the Croats "will do everything to win their independence - except fight for it". There is a hunger in Croatia for a good, clean victory that no one can take away, and for the "Knights" in 1998 to finally erase the shame of the fall of the city of Vukovar to the Serbian army in the early years of the Serbo-Croat war.

Close links between sporting and national aspirations are not, of course, at all peculiar to Croats. But they have long-taken on a special tinge in the Balkans and in Eastern Europe among the subject nations of the Russian Tsars and the Austrian emperors. Like all the Habsburgs' Slav subjects (especially the Czechs), Croat youth flocked to join athletic associations in the 19th century. All these clubs naturally had very highly charged political and ethnic character - which is why, when Croatia became part of Yugoslavia after the First World War, the Belgrade government tried to shut them down.

The Yugoslav communists, who took over in the 1940s, took much the same view as the old, royal Serbian government. Determined to drain the national spirit and unhealthy dreams of statehood out of sport, Croats - and the Serbs for that matter - were forbidden national teams of their own.

The local city teams, meanwhile, were renamed and given socialist, Soviet-sounding names that were almost self-consciously dreary and unmotivational. Belgrade got Red Star and Partisan - the latter intriguingly enough, founded with the help of none other than Mr Tuđman, then living in Belgrade, and in his Com-

unist, "Yugoslav" incarnation. Zagreb got Dinamo. But the attempt to squeeze the national spirit, and especially the Croat national spirit, out of sport only worked for a while. In the highly centralised police state of the Fifties, the rise of fan clubs in the Sixties - the "Bad Blue Boys" for Dinamo, and "Gravediggers" for Partisan - soon resulted in a highly nationalist tone seeping back into what were supposed to be totally non-national teams.

So much so that the infamous Dinamo-Red Star football match of 13 May 1990, which ended in a state of emergency and violence in the streets of Zagreb, was widely seen in Yugoslavia - and throughout the world - as both a premonition, and in a sense the first round, of the Yugoslav civil war. And who should have made himself a hero that day among the Croats by kicking one of the Serbian police, baton-charging the Croatian fans: none other than Zvonimir Boban, the Croat captain.

Football has brought Croatia the recognition it failed to win elsewhere and a measure of that international fame which they, like all nervous and newly independent states, are particularly keen to enjoy. But football is not President Tuđman's entirely pliant creature, however close his relationship to some of the play-

ers and to the coach, Miroslav Blažević. The team may advertise that victory merely releases all those atavistic passions which - on the battlefields of Bosnia, for example - isolated Croatia from the world in the first place. So precious is the "national" quality of the football team in the eyes of the nation, that for the midfielder Robert Prosić, the unfortunate fact of having a Serb parent has brought death threats.

But there is also a sense in which Croatia's football team is seen as the only real opposition party to their crushingly dominant president. Tuđman's order to rename Dinamo Croatia in the early 1990s - to give this most prestigious of the local teams a truly "national" tone - was one of the blunders of his career, proving wildly unpopular and the subject of much graffiti. All over the capital's walls, the slogan went up:

*Daj slobode i demokracije, bilo Dinamo ne Croatia*  
(if we had freedom and democracy, we would have Dinamo and not Croatia).

Such a blatant attempt to hitch sport to the service of the state can backfire, and he deeply resented.

And there is the other danger, too: that Croatia's national ambitions - and frustrations - are so heavily intertwined with the fate of the "Knights" of the football pitch.

If sport becomes the means by which Croatia presents itself to the world, victory tomorrow could be as frightening as defeat.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

ROBIN WOOLCOCK



The head of Volkswagen (UK) denies allegations that it fixes prices at the showroom

PANORAMA HAS suggested that Volkswagen UK tries to fix the degree of discount its dealers are able to offer customers. This is an accusation that we refute absolutely.

Our company has never threatened or penalised any of its dealers for offering discounts. And it does not dictate to its dealers the degree of discount they are able to offer to a buyer. It has never threatened or penalised any of its dealers for offering discounts.

During recent years, it has been the objective of this organisation to lower the prices of its products relative to the competition in the UK marketplace. We have been very successful in the achievement of this aim; and three consecutive record years of sales, together with a very high demand for Volkswagen products, confirm this achievement.

As well as cutting our costs we have also reduced list prices and improved levels of equipment. At the same time, to help achieve this, we have gradually reduced the margins with which the dealers are able to trade. The combined factors of increased demand and lower dealer margins have resulted in reduced levels of discounting.

We accept that the prices of Volkswagen products, along with those for other brands, are higher in the UK than in some other European countries. This is due to the high value of sterling. In past years, our organisation has supported falls in the value of sterling and not raised the prices of its products. We do this to give stability to the pricing of new and used Volkswagens for the benefit of our customers.

Again, I would like to emphasise that we do not dictate to our dealers the degree of discount they should offer. We publish a recommended list price, but the degree of discount is up to them.

## Mad, bad and very dangerous

THE GANGSTER who married into my family was called Chesty. He looked just like Edward G Robinson playing barrel-chested, cigar-chomping Little Caesar. Chesty's flashy, peroxide-blondie gun moll, my great aunt Gussie's daughter, looked like a film noir character too, but she was married to Chesty and their sons had bar mitzvahs. The movie stereotypes were based on people like them, people they knew, but the J-word was never mentioned. The prototype of Robinson's edgy, vicious Caesar was actually Bugsy Goldstein, a director of *Murder, Incorporated* - a Jewish firm.

Some of America's most notorious contract killers, racketeers and gamblers were Jewish. This underworld subculture took root in the worst neighbourhoods of Brooklyn and lower Manhattan in the late 19th century. The halcyon days before the Jewish families moved to the suburbs and the Italians took over were in the 1920s and 1930s. The suave gambler Arnold Rothstein, whom Rich Cohen calls the Moses of Crime, became America's pre-eminent bootlegger when the US government's ban on alcohol created a golden opportunity.

Rothstein's syndicate exported incredible quantities of whisky from Britain. They sailed it across the sea and, having paid off the coastguards on both sides of the Atlantic, landed it by small fast boat, cut it and sent it across state lines. Even before Prohibition ended in 1933, Rothstein's entrepreneurial skill enabled him to accumulate enough capital to go where risks were lower and profits even higher. He led the way to the world of white-collar crime which WASPs had hitherto kept for themselves.

Respectability was gained, but with the disappearance of the hard men and their ice picks and machine guns, Cohen believes, something important was lost. This was the "old gangster



### WEDNESDAY BOOK

TOUGH JEWS: FATHERS, SONS AND GANGSTER DREAMS  
BY RICH COHEN. JONATHAN CAPE. £16.99

wisdom" that everything is negotiable, including that part of your fate that seems predetermined - your prospects, your future. From the Jewish gangsters, Cohen's father, who grew up in the mean streets of Brooklyn and who is the most interesting character in this engrossing and entertaining book, inherited "his belief that authority... can always be outfoxed... that all these rules - Do this, Don't do that - are just the construct of other men and can be defeated."

Mind you, these Jewish gangsters were no Robin Hoods. Not one of them stole from the rich and gave to the poor;

no nonsense like that. They were mad, bad and dangerous to know; and most certainly did not write poetry. But Rich Cohen sees poetry in the fact of their existence and finds in them the answer to a question that haunts many Jews who grew up after the Holocaust: why did the six million go like sheep to the slaughter, why didn't they resist? These guys would have, says Cohen. They had guts, they prove the vitality of Jewish manhood.

Personally, I think he draws the wrong lesson. These guys would have sold everybody else out. And their contempt for the law was not evi-

dence of American get-up-and-go. Rather, it was an attitude that Jews brought with them from a Europe where the law had so often been carefully designed to fleece or murder them.

To elude the American authorities, Meyer Lansky - the last of the "great" gangsters - tried to emigrate to Israel. There he was unprecedently refused what is supposed to be every Jew's right: the right of return. Golda Meir said no Mafia need apply, so Lansky had to face the music in the US courts. In fact, his lawyers turned out to be better than the government's: Lansky was cleared of all charges and eventually died of old age in Miami. One feels Cohen wishes that, like Arnold Rothstein, Lansky had been gunned down.

Violence, it has been said, is as American as apple pie. Cohen feels it important that we know that it was also once as Jewish as apple strudel: that there were terrifying Jews out there, hoodlums as bad as any Godfather. Although the recently reissued *The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Gangster in America* by Alfred Fried remains the definitive book on gangsterdom, Cohen achieves his main aim, which is to show how the mythology of the Jewish underworld gave courage to street-smart kids like his father. Billy the Kid was not Jewish. Rich Cohen probably wishes he was.

As for Chesty and Gussie, after a while they had plenty of Cadillacs and their bar mitzvah boys were finishing university. Chesty wanted to leave the Syndicate. In answer to his delicate inquiries, word came back that there was only one way out: feet first. Having no desire for early retirement to New York's equivalent of Boot Hill, Chesty kept working. In today's economy, I suppose, there are many who would kill for that sort of job security.

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### WEDNESDAY POEM

#### LUSTRA

BY CHRISTOPHER OKIGBO (NIGERIA)

So would I to the hills again  
so would I  
to where springs the fountain  
there to draw from  
and to hilltop clamber  
body and soul  
whitewashed in the moonewd  
there to see from

So would I from my eye the mist  
so would I  
through moonmist to hilltop  
there for the cleansing

Here is a new-laid egg  
here a white hen at midterm.

Our poems this week come from the new edition of  
'The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry'.  
edited by Gerald Moore and Ulli Beier (Penguin. £9.99).

ADRIANNE BLAKE

# Kay Thompson

"IF ARTISTICALLY you are able to do one thing," Kay Thompson once said, "you are more than likely able to do them all... it's just a matter of constant adjustment of one's beads." The ever-elegant and stunningly chic Thompson proved her point by being an accomplished singer, dancer, actress, composer, arranger, author, satirist and businesswoman.

She wrote the much-loved Eloise books, about a precocious six-year-old residing in New York's Plaza Hotel, had a cabaret act that toured the top night-clubs of the world, did vocal arrangements for some of the best Hollywood musicals and had a co-starring role in one of the very best, *Funny Face*, with Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn. "She was a dynamo," said the film star Gloria DeHaven. "Wildly talented, wildly flamboyant, and wildly wild. When she entered a room, she entered. She wouldn't walk in, she'd float in, and her arms would rise. All eyes would turn. She had that kind of command."

Born in St Louis in 1912, to a jewel merchant, Thompson started playing the piano at the age of four and at 15 performed Liszt's *Hungarian Fantasy* with the St Louis Symphony Orchestra - legend has it that she started several bars after the orchestra and tripped over a potted palm on her exit. At 17, she moved to California. "I was a stage-struck kid," she said, "and I got out of St Louis fast." After a brief spell as a diving instructor she entered radio as a vocal arranger and performer, working with Bing Crosby, the Mills Brothers and Andre Kostelanetz.

After a spell as singer-arranger with Fred Waring's group, she formed a vocal group of her own with distinctive harmonies and was given her own radio show, *Kay Thompson and Company*, co-starring the comedian Jim Backus. "It was an instantaneous flop," she later recalled, "and I then came to a serious decision. I had to be an actress and I had to be alone. So I went to Hollywood, where I was neither."

It was the mid-Forties, the time when the Freed Unit at MGM was responsible for the finest group of musicals in Hollywood history and Thompson was hired by Roger Edens to join the team as vocal coach and arranger, working with such stars as Lena Horne and Judy Garland, the latter becoming a lifelong friend and confidante - Thompson was to be godmother to Garland's daughter Liza Minnelli.

Gloria DeHaven recently said, "Kay wasn't so much in charge of teaching people how to sing note for



note as she was to help with vocal stylings and arrangements." Van Johnson added, "She was an idea person. Whenever anyone had a problem they would say 'Get me Kay Thompson.' When I had to sing for the camera, I thought I'd die of fright, so I sent for Kay. She came in wearing a lynx coat and just sat there and smiled, and I sang to her. That was it. I got over my fright."

Among the first numbers on which she worked was the extended version of Harry Warren and Johnny Mercer's "The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe", the Oscar-winning highlight of *The Harvey Girls* (1946), starring Garland. "I think I fell in love with Judy the second I saw her sitting on that train in the movie eating the sandwich," said Thompson later. Other films on which she worked included *Till the Clouds Roll By* (1946), *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), *The Kid from Brooklyn* (1946, on loan to the producer Sam Goldwyn) and *Good News* (1947).

When her contract ended, Thompson formed a night-club act using as back-up group the Williams Brothers. (One of the brothers, Andy, was later to have a successful career as a soloist.)

Thompson constructed her act as a miniature revue and it opened at Ciro's on 16 October 1947, to become a legend still talked about, an act described by the columnist Walter Winchell as the greatest in night-club history. *Time* magazine reported:

Dressed in one of her 25 sleek slacksuits, comedienne Kay Thompson stepped into the spotlight, looking like a caricature of the neurotic, world-wearied woman of the Twenties. Bounding about her were four young, mobile-faced Williams brothers who served as a kind of combination corps de ballet and hot choir: Anything went, pantomime or pratfalls, and "Pauvre Souzette", a song about a young woman with a Restoration bosom.

The act played in the top clubs all over the world for the next few years, including the Café de Paris in London. It was while on tour that Thompson conceived the idea of Eloise. "Once I was late to a show," said Thompson, "and the brothers bawled me out. All right," I said, using a kid's voice, "all right, I'm late, I'm Eloise and of all, I'm only six. After that I'd be Eloise and we'd fool around." Later, when planning to write a book about hotel life in America (to be called *Bed's I Have Slept In*), she instead created Eloise.

the lovable six-year-old who lives at the Plaza ("And charge it, please") and loves to pour water down mail chutes ("Just zippety jingle and skibble away zap!"). The first book, *Eloise*, was published in 1955, with illustrations by Hilary Knight, and further books told of Eloise in Paris, in Moscow, at Christmas time and in the bath. Thompson also made a recording as the little girl.

Songs written by Thompson include the hit "Violins" ("I love a violin..."), and for her cabaret act she also designed the clothes she wore, co-choreographed her dances and penned her own arrangements.

In 1957 Thompson was perfectly cast as an energetic and forceful fashion-magazine editor striving for "bizazz" in *Funny Face*, produced and directed by her former MGM colleagues Roger Edens and Stanley Donen. In this exquisitely photographed gem, Fred Astaire was the photographer Dick Avery (the film's visual consultant was Richard Avedon), transforming Greenwich Village bookseller Audrey Hepburn into a model for Thompson's magazine spread, "Clothes for the woman who is not interested in clothes."

Thompson stylishly led the film's opening number "Think Pink", joined the two leads cavorting through Paris in "Bonjour Paris", partnered Hepburn in "On How to be Lovely" and Astaire in "Clap Yo' Hands", rousing and strutted in an existential haunt and given a typically Thompson vocal arrangement. Sadly, Astaire and Thompson did not get along - she considered him "crotchety" while he, according to Donen, liked his co-stars to be ultra-feminine. "He knew she had amazing talent," said Donen, "but just didn't want to be near it."

Thompson made one more film, Otto Preminger's off-beat account of three misfits who decide to live together, *Tell Me That You Love Me, Junie Moon* (1970), starring Liza Minnelli. Afterwards, Thompson became reclusive, and was estranged for several years from Minnelli due to the latter's drug use. A few years ago she was at the backstage piano bar in New York listening to the cabaret performer Steve Ross and was persuaded to join him in sooth, demonstrating that, though visibly aged, she still had plenty of "bizazz".

Tom Vallance

*Kay Thompson, actress; born St Louis, Missouri 9 November 1912; married first Jack Jenney (marriage dissolved), second Bill Spier (marriage dissolved); died New York 2 July 1998.*



Illustration by Hilary Knight for Thompson's book *Eloise*

## George Corbyn Barrow



GEORGE CORBYN Barrow was the grandson of Richard Cadbury Barrow, the last Mayor of Birmingham before it was granted a City Charter in 1888. He followed his grandfather's example by becoming Lord Mayor of the city in 1965.

The Barrow family had been well known in Birmingham since the establishment in the 1840s of the high-class grocery business Barrow Stores. A strong attachment to Birmingham and a sense of civic and social responsibility ran through the whole family.

Corbyn Barrow was the known by either George or Corbyn by different people at different stages of his life) was born in 1903, a birthright Quaker. He was educated at York's Quaker school, Bootham, across the years of the First World War. He later went to King's College, Cambridge, and qualifying as a solicitor in 1928, followed his uncle into the Birmingham law firm Wragge and Co. He remained with the firm all his working life, acting as its senior partner between 1967 and 1973, and then, after various stages of retirement, fading from any active practice aged about 75.

The firm still thrives, though now in rather grander accommodation and charging rather grander fees than Barrow imagined possible or

decent. As a lawyer he was deeply committed to the law's impact on the ordinary person. Having been active in the Poor Man's Lawyer scheme, he was instrumental in establishing the Legal Aid system. His commitment was reflected in his own work and the heterogeneous nature of Wragge and Co's business while he was involved in its running.

He was secretary of the Birmingham Law Society in 1936 for several years and later, in 1952, became its president. Nationally, he served on the Council of the Law Society for over 30 years, until 1971. He continued as an honorary member of the Birmingham Law Society, and due to his specialist knowledge of conveyancing, continued on its non-contentious business committee until he was nearly 90.

Birmingham's politics was the other significant dimension to Barrow's life. After the Second World War, which he spent in the National Fire Service as a column officer, responsible for the training of human

volunteer fire fighters, he was selected as Labour's parliamentary candidate for Edgbaston.

In 1945 Edgbaston did not fail to Labour, although the party polled more votes in the constituency than in any prior election. Barrow therefore switched his attentions from Westminster to Birmingham City Council, as councillor for Winsor Green's All Saints Ward, amiably sitting opposite his own brother, Richard Barrow, who was then a Conservative councillor.

Barrow brought his own brand of deeply logical and ethical analysis to administrative problems. He was elevated to the council's Aldermanic Bench in 1952, for a total of eight years he was chairman of the city's health committee and he was later chair of the housing committee.

One of his proudest achievements was a programme ensuring that piped water was installed in every Birmingham home.

In 1965 he was elected Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Among other

civic activities, he helped establish the city's race relations committee in the mid-Sixties and, as chair, led it for more than 10 years.

As a socialist (and in his first marriage married to a Communist) in a much livelier and broader political climate than today's, he did not see his middle-class background as any sort of disqualification. He was president of the Fire Brigades Union and as possibly the first graduate to hold the position of vice-president of Birmingham's Trades Council, he felt privileged in proposing the motion to allow Communists to join.

This easy understanding of socialism and subscription to the aspirations of Labour may well have been due to his Quakerism.

Although personally very un-pious, the Quaker creed of fairness, personal integrity and seeing value ("that of God") in everyone certainly informed him in a way that the other directives, to eschew drink and tobacco, did not. He was a familiar figure of the hotel bars and pubs used

in council and legal circles, and throughout adult life was perpetually wreathed in pipe smoke.

In a recent example of his political aversion to anything he saw as iniquitous, he protested over the introduction of the poll tax by insisting on paying the amount that he had paid in rates the previous year plus a generous percentage for inflation. This, living in Edgbaston, was substantially more than the poll tax demand and, after several exchanges of cheques and letters, he was successful in insisting that the council accept the money and put it to proper use - providing useful services for the Birmingham population.

Pacifism, another demanding Quaker principle, was never truly to test him. He was too young for the First World War and during the Second World War, despite call-up papers arriving from the Navy and preparations to join the training ship *Excelsior* (a rather unimpressive vessel that lay in some inland waterway), after direct intervention.

In 1947 he sailed to, and circumnavigated, Iceland in a small yacht. In contradiction to much else in his life, he relished the snobbery in boating circles of belonging to the prestigious Royal Cruising Club.

George Barrow

*George Corbyn Barrow, lawyer; born Birmingham 9 September 1903; married 1934 Molly Sparrow (marriage dissolved 1957); Sheila Davis (one son, two daughters); died Birmingham 2 July 1998.*

## Adel Osseiran

THE FRENCH mandate in Lebanon, Brigadier Stephen Longrigg wrote four decades ago, "disappeared with graceless reluctance". Long impaired and "increasingly unreal", it was destroyed by an act of folly at 1am on 11 November 1943, when French troops came to arrest ministers of the new Lebanese government, proving - to the Lebanese and to the British - that their promises of independence were worthless. Adel Osseiran, the last survivor of Beshara al-Khoury's cabinet, was trapped in his house at Aley in the mountains above Beirut when five French marines saw a friend leave his home.

"They were in uniform and Adel greeted them politely and asked what they wanted," his young wife - pregnant with their second daughter - was to recall. "They said they had orders to arrest him from M Jean Helleu (French Délégué-Général in Lebanon). Adel had come back late that night and our dinner

lay uneaten on the table. He said to them: 'I have to change to wash, why don't you eat with me?' He was playing for time but they took him away; they refused to tell me where. They searched the whole house. When they came to my room, I told them, 'You will pay dearly for this.' The Frenchman replied: 'So be it!'

Adel Osseiran, a Shiite Muslim from the south of Lebanon, was taken to the gaunt old prison at Rachaya in the Bekaa valley where he met the rest of the Lebanese cabinet who had refused to allow M Helleu to maintain his control over Lebanon's administration. Riyad el-Solh, the prime minister, was already there. So was the president, Beshara al-Khoury, who - according to the Osseiran family - berated the new minister of agriculture and communications. "See where your refusal to negotiate has got us?" el-Khoury asked. "See what happens when you always refuse to negotiate." Osseiran smiled at him. In

prison, he paid his French-controlled Shiite guard to buy food for himself and his fellow ministers. French cuisine was not to their taste.

Osseiran had never found the French to his taste. He opposed France's carving up of Syria - General Henri Gouraud had proclaimed the state of "Greater Lebanon" on lands taken from Syria in 1920 - and a "Conference of the Coast" in 1936, which he attended, expressed the view that Muslim areas of Lebanon should be retransferred back to Syria.

Osseiran was arrested - for the first time - the same year after protesting at the massacre of Syrians by French Senegalese troops. "So you are the man who wants to swallow 40 million Frenchmen?" the French investigator asked, referring to a speech Osseiran had made at Nabatiyeh. "Why not?" Osseiran replied. "Then you must be a gourmet," the Frenchman said. He

stood unsuccessfully for parliament (under the mandate) a year later.

Ironically, though a nationalist from the start of his political life, Osseiran had been brought up in the French language - he began his schooling at the French "Frères" school in Sidon - and first attracted the notice of the French authorities when he protested, in 1928, at the harsh mandate taxes imposed on south Lebanese (Shiite) tobacco farmers. He was at last elected a member for southern Lebanon in 1943 and was successfully re-elected for the Zahran constituency in 1953, 1960, 1968 and 1972.

As a Shiite, he interceded with Saudi Arabia to allow Iranians to make the Haj pilgrimage in 1947 while at the same time asking the Iranians to support the Arab cause in Palestine; that same year, he represented Lebanon at the UN to vote against the Palestine partition plan. Thirty-six years later, he would be demanding "armed resistance" against Israel's occupation of Lebanon at the Geneva conference.

The civil war - and the foreign armies which it drew inexorably into his tiny country - deeply depressed Osseiran, whose ministerial portfolios between 1968 and 1989 included justice, interior, defence, commerce and economy. Almost by way of protest, he stuck to his post during that terrible conflict, opposing all foreign interference just as he had argued against Camille Chamoun's call for US Marine landings in 1958 following Gamal Abdul Nasser's union of Syria and Egypt (Osseiran admired Nasser's personality).

He was almost killed when a Phalangist bullet grazed his head outside the parliament building during the civil war. Standing in his office at the ministry of commerce in 1976, he saw Beirut port burning from end to end and pleaded desperately over the telephone with the Syrian interior minister to send a fire engine from Damascus (shades of Northern Ireland's appeal to de Valera during the 1941 Belfast Blitz). The fire appliance duly arrived, only to be shot up by the same militiamen who were burning the port - because they were intent on looting it.

Osseiran was one of the very few politicians in Lebanon who sold property in order to survive - many others augmented their pathetic salaries through corruption - and even in the worst years of the war he would set off home to Sidon down the guerrilla-infested coast road from Beirut on his own. Believing in what he called the "Arab identity", he admired President Assad of Syria in much the same way as he appreciated Nasser's calls for Arab unity.

The chimera of unity, of course, did not come in Osseiran's lifetime and he died aged 93, having fought Parkinson's disease for 14 years, still demanding an end to the Israeli oc-

cupation of southern Lebanon - just as he had, at the start of his career, demanded an end to French occupation of that very same piece of land.

Robert Fisk

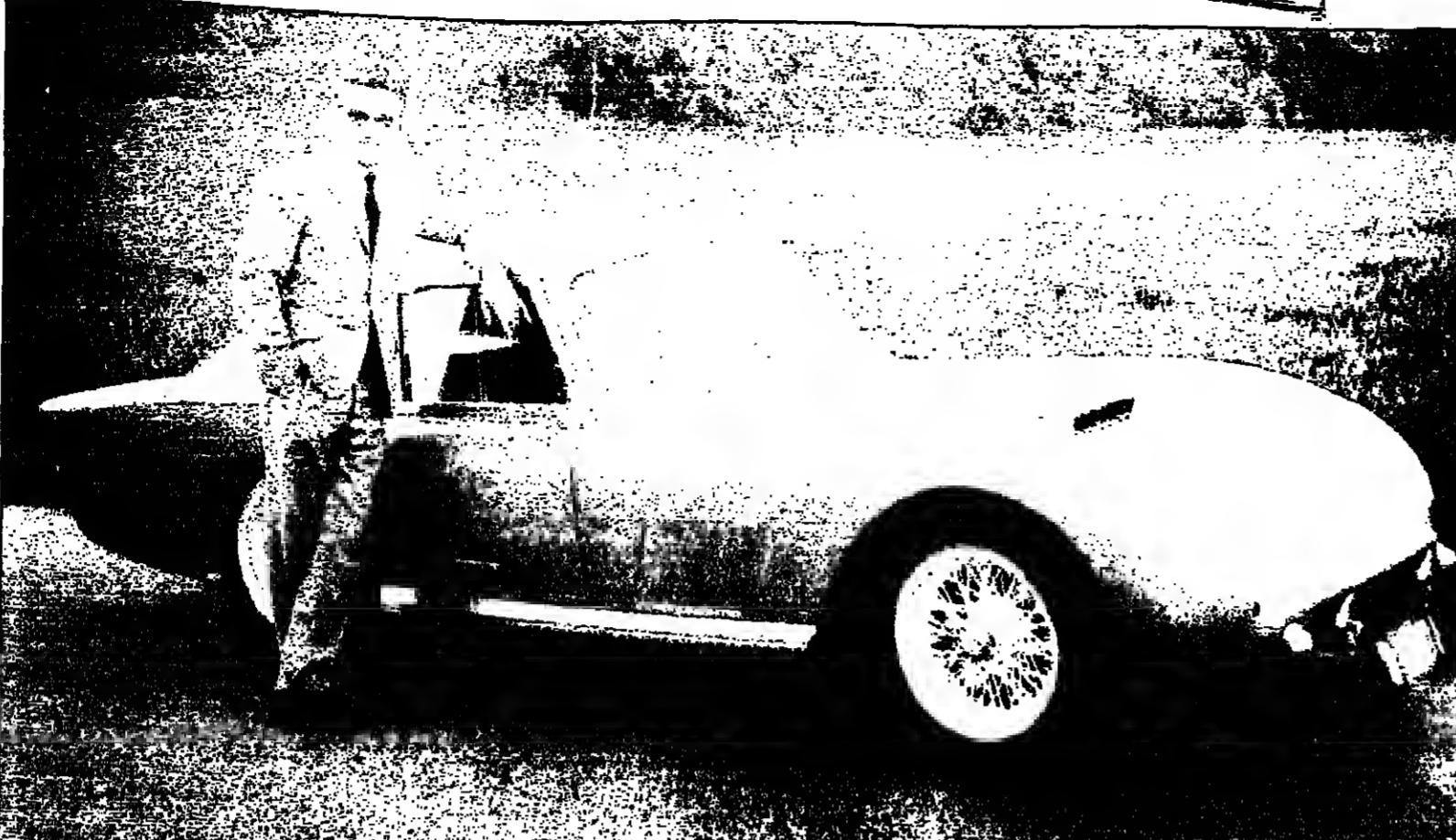
*Adel Abdullah Osseiran, politician; born Sidon, Syria 5 June 1905; married 1941 Souad al-Khalil (two sons, five daughters); died Sidon, Lebanon 18 June 1998.*



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Monteverdi in 1954, with a Ferrari Tipo 53 Mille Miglia – the first Ferrari imported into Switzerland

## Peter Monteverdi

WITH AROUND 3,000 cars built over a 27-year period, Peter Monteverdi was never going to join the Henry Ford league of motor industry moguls. Nevertheless, this achievement still makes him the most prolific Swiss car manufacturer of all time. His products ranged from single-seater racing cars to upmarket off-road vehicles, one of the most beautiful cars of the 1960s, and American sedans cynically disguised as sleek limousines.

He was born in Binningen, a suburb of Basel on the Franco-Swiss border, the only son of Rosolino Monteverdi, who ran a garage specialising in truck repairs. Surrounded by mechanical things as a child, he was obsessed with cars, inseparable from his Dinky toys and pedal car and, as a teenager, earned pocket money at a local tractor factory. After school he worked a four-year apprenticeship at the Sauret truck works in Arbon.

Rather than design some utilitarian farm implement, Monteverdi built his own car, aged just 17. He bought a clapped-out Fiat 1100 saloon for £200 and transferred its salvageable organs to a homemade chassis and body to create his own two-seater roadster. "I think I was the only Swiss person ever to do that at that age," he recalled later.

When his father died in 1956, he left running a truck repair shop he had little interest in. Almost immediately, he diversified into sports car tuning and repairs and expanded fast. With no home-grown sports cars on offer, Monteverdi built one, and his first "MBM" – Monteverdi-Basel-Motors – was a cocktail of odds and ends, a British Heron plastic kit car body and a Ford Anglia 998cc engine tuned to 85bhp. In fact, only three were made. A more useful sideline was go-karts, while he also found commercial luck with a simple Formula Junior single-seater racing car; 23 were sold between 1959 and 1962.

Spurred on by this success, Monteverdi went on to construct the first and only Swiss Formula One car. The MBM F1 boasted a factory-tuned Porsche RSK engine in a modified MBM FJ body/chassis, and was entered in a few Grands Prix in 1960 and 1961. Monteverdi himself drove to a second place at Mont Verdon in 1960, but the MBM wasn't particularly distinguished.

In fact, Monteverdi's short and hectic career as a driver was more distinguished in sports cars – coming third in the Nürburgring 1000km race in 1959 in a factory-backed Mercedes 300SLR – and rallying, capturing a second place in the 1959 Geneva Rally in a works Renault Dauphine. He claimed to have driven in 60 international and 20 national races and rallies, with several victories.

In 1961, a nasty accident at Hockenheim in his F1 car left Monteverdi seriously injured and took away his taste for competition. He quit the grid altogether, but this was no loss for racing driver destined to eke out a prosaic living. His business had grown so large he bulldozed his father's old truck sheds and built palatial new premises, with showrooms at the front, multi-storey workshops at the back and apartments

he recalled. "I wasn't prepared to do that so he said he'd find another importer, I decided to build my own car."

It took Monteverdi two years to design and build the first prototype of the Monteverdi 375S. "It was intended to be different from a Ferrari," he said, "to offer everything Ferrari didn't. A Ferrari is a young man's car, but no young man can afford it, only older people. And older people want things like automatic transmission. But Enzo Ferrari refused to give it to me."

The Monteverdi 375S was one of the most handsome cars in the world at its autumn 1967 debut, powered by a huge 7.2-litre Chrysler V8 engine pumping out 375bhp – hence the name – and designed by an Italian stylist called Pietro Frua.

It was Switzerland's answer to upper-crust British GT cars like the Jensen

found their way to Middle Eastern owners. In 1977, sensing he was on to a good thing, Monteverdi returned to conventional road cars by transforming the humble Plymouth Valore into the Monteverdi Sierra. A new nose and tail was grafted on to the Detroit midriff, the interior was totally refitted, "exclusive" Monteverdi badges were applied – and it was hoped none would notice.

By the late 1970s, however, it was getting hard for – effectively – a one-man band to manufacture new cars, so Monteverdi poured his efforts into his new "Monteverdi Design" enterprise.

Besides the predictably gitzzy watches and speedboats, he had the clever idea of squeezing two extra doors into Britain's ever-popular Range Rover without altering the wheelbase and, thus, a large redesign. Land Rover liked the idea, and subsequently paid Monteverdi a lucrative royalty on every standard four-door it made until 1994.

As he grew older, Monteverdi became bitter at the scant recognition he received in his home country. By 1984, he abandoned making cars altogether after building around 3,000 of them – just 200 of which remained in Switzerland. Instead, in the bowels of his old factory, he created a car museum that was, in effect, a shrine to himself; of the 150 cars he owned, 60 were Monteverdis, including that first Fiat Special. Visitors could even sit down in a miniature viewing theatre and watch a slide show of the Monteverdi story in four languages. Although it was billed as "Switzerland's largest car museum", there were few visitors, and this left him angry and disillusioned.

"Switzerland is a green place," he said caustically. "People frown on exclusive cars. Germany's the same. People say, 'We don't like cars – they should be banned.' That's why I stopped production."

People who owned them, though, loved them. It's believed a fleet of five Monteverdi 375S limousines are still in palace service with the King of Qatar, while the King of Morocco allegedly uses his Monteverdi Safari regularly.

Giles Chapman

*Peter Rosolino Monteverdi, car designer and manufacturer and museum proprietor, born Basel, Switzerland, 17 June 1934; died Basel 4 July 1998.*

*The Monteverdi 375S was one of the most handsome cars in the world... It was intended to be different from a Ferrari, said Monteverdi, 'to offer everything Ferrari didn't'*

above to generate even more income. By 1970, Garage Monteverdi had doubled in size again. He was also the Swiss Ferrari importer.

Canny business sense in sports cars and truck-mending meant Peter Monteverdi could afford the first Ferrari sold in Switzerland, a Tipo 51 Mille Miglia, in 1954. Keeping it going, however, required frequent trips to Italy for spares.

"One time in 1954 I was in Modena and I met Enzo Ferrari," said Monteverdi. "He asked me what I did and I told him I had a small garage in Basel. As I was also a racing driver, he asked if I'd like to sell his cars for him in Switzerland. So I became the Ferrari concessionaire at just 21 and remained the Swiss importer for 12 years."

The arrangement added to Monteverdi's prestige but, in 1964, ended abruptly. "Enzo insisted I buy 100 cars at a time and pay for them in advance,"

and Bristol, and spawned a series of coupés, convertibles and a four-door saloon, the 375, produced until 1975. But it was in another league price-wise; the 375S was twice as expensive as a Jensen Interceptor and a staggering five times more than a Jaguar E-type. Still, there were around 50 takers a year until the fuel crisis of 1974 made selling such bespoke gas guzzlers impossible.

With startling inventiveness, Monteverdi then switched tack to luxurious four-wheel drive vehicles aimed at the Middle East where oil crises didn't really figure. But instead of designing and building from scratch, he adopted America's rugged International Harvester 4x4 vehicles, turning the workaday IH Scout into the upmarket Sahara, with plush interior and reworked nose, and the Safari, with completely restyled bodywork and an even more deluxe interior.

He made hundreds, all of which

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

DRUMMIES: Maud Beatrice, beloved wife of the late Michael and Margaret mother of Derek. Suddenly, but peacefully, at home, on Saturday 4 July 1998, aged 75 years.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £8.50 a line; VAT is extra.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the London Federation of Clubs for Young People, visits Woodrow High House, the Lawrence and Joseph Levy Centre for Young People, Amersham, Buckinghamshire; and, as President, attends a

#### BIRTHDAYS

Lord Allen of Abbeydale, former senior civil servant, 86; Mr Jon Bannenberg, yacht designer, 88; Dr Robert Barnes, metallurgist, 74; Dr Kate Bertram, former President, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, 86; Sir Robin Bigg, chairman, Fairey Group, and of the Independent Television Commission, 60; Mr Christopher Brown, Headmaster, Norwich School, 54; Mr Alan Campbell MP, 41; Mr Ben Chapman MP, 58; The Hon Mrs Mary Corstan, former Chairman, WRVS, 71; Sir Peter Darby, former Chief Inspector, Fire Services, 74;

Lord Dervaird, Professor of Company Law, Edinburgh University, 63; Mr Leslie East, publishing director, Novello & Co, 49; Mr Keith Fielding, rugby player, 49; Lord Gilmore of Craigmillar, former government minister, 72; Mr Bruce Gynell, former managing director, TV-am, 69; Mr Bernard Henderson, chairman, British Waterways, 70; Mr Brian Hitchen, former Editor, *Sunday Express*, 62; Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, former ME, 74; Dr Peter Knight, Vice-Chancellor, University of Central England in Birmingham, 51; Maj-Gen Robert Loudoun, former Director, Mental Health Foundation,

68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, Controller, RAF Benevolent Fund, 60; Miss Pauline Quirke, actress, 39; The Right Rev Derek Rawcliffe, Assistant Bishop, Ripon, 77; Mr Chris Ruane, MP 40; Viscount Samuel, Emeritus Professor of Physical Chemistry, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, 76; Herr Walter Scheel, former president of West Germany, 79; Sir Roy Shaw, former Secretary-General, the Arts Council, 80; Mr Brian Walden, journalist and broadcaster, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, 81; The Very Rev Michael Whinney, Assistant Bishop, Birmingham, 68.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Percy Aldridge Grainger (George Percy), composer and pianist, 1882. Deaths: Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, at sea 1822. Today is the Feast Day of St Adrian III, pope, Saints Aquila and Priscilla, St Grimald, St Kilian, St Procopius of Cesarea, St Sumuiva and her Companions and St Withburga.

#### LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitken, "Andy Warhol: prankster or pioneer?", 1pm.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

#### WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
anti-clockwise, *adj.*

described the way clocks moved their hands in earlier times.

Widdershins, that splendidly sinister and ancient word for anti-clockwise.

### HISTORICAL NOTES

GEOFFREY SHERINGTON

## Child emigrants or Empire settlers



Fairbridge: imperial philanthropy

IN RECENT years child migration has had a poor press. Charges of deceived parents and systematically abused children appear to be the norm. However, one of the foremost child emigration societies challenges much of this depiction.

The Fairbridge Society, named after its founder, the South African born Kingsley Fairbridge, was established in 1909 and continued its migration activities for three-quarters of a century, though the goals of the founder and supporters of the society were never fully realised.

It is perhaps strange that the racist impetus behind child emigration has not received more flak from the critics.

Kingsley Fairbridge was a late-19th-century "Child of Empire" who absorbed and acted upon the racist assumptions of his own class and generation. He wished to further the cause of imperial greatness by rescuing white children from the cities of Britain and transplanting them to the far-flung frontiers of the white Dominions. Such bonds would bind the territories together and promote the supremacy and cultures of their British founders.

By the time that the migration activities of the Fairbridge Society ceased, that dream had run its course. Commonwealth had replaced Empire and multiculturalism white supremacy. The society had helped to establish farm schools in Western Australia, Vancouver Island, New South Wales and Victoria, while a Fairbridge Memorial College had been founded in Rhodesia. Almost 6,000 children had been sent out under various schemes, many receiving a training which probably would have been denied them in the home country. But all this was not enough to preserve Empire. Ironically, by the 1950s it was the Australians, still eager to maintain British migration, who provided the impetus to continue re-settlement.

What then of the charges of deception and the effect of migration on the children themselves? While the society reunited children from poor homes and voluntary organisations such as Barnardo's it also appealed directly to parents. Some critics had suggested that child migration societies often ignored the wishes of parents who had placed their children in institutions but many actually enrolled their children with the Fairbridge Society.

The society was essentially an imperial philanthropic organisation which constantly revealed its concern for the welfare of the children. Kingsley Fairbridge had established not only rural training but also attempted to create a sense of family life through cottage homes and a system of aftercare to protect the children once they went into employment. After his death much of this ossified. A lot depended on the relationship between individual children and the cottage mothers which were a vital part of the Fairbridge system. But it would be wrong to assume that life on the farms was a form of sustained child abuse. The society in London continued to insist on the need for proper care and protection. Eventually, it instigated its own inquiry into the administration of farm schools in Australia, so leading to changes in methods which would, at least, bring new forms of education and employment opportunities for the generation of child emigrants sent out after the Second World War.

In the end, very few of the child emigrants remained on the land as Fairbridge had expected. Many undoubtedly came to believe that it would have been better if they had stayed in Britain closer to their own immediate kith and kin. But others took advantage of the new prospects that migration opened up for them. The Fairbridge legacy remains in the lives of many of these former child emigrants.

Geoffrey Sherington is co-author of *Fairbridge: Empire and child migration*, published by Woburn Press this month. £35

## Judges' role in long-delayed cases

### WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

8 JULY 1998

Regina v Percival  
(Court of Appeal  
(Criminal Division)  
(Lord Justice Auld,  
Mr Justice Holland  
and Judge Allen)  
19 June 1998

he had failed to give a full and sufficient direction to the jury as to the prejudice caused to the defence by the delay.

Timothy Holroyde (Keith Porter) for the appellant: Alex Corrige QC (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

The appellant's trial took place in September 1997, although the offences were alleged to have occurred between 1996 and 1997. At that time he had been employed as a clerk/storman at an approved school for boys, which had subsequently closed. No contemporaneous complaints had been made against the appellant, but a relatively recent enquiry into sexual abuse of pupils at the school, which had led to the successful prosecution of a former master, had also resulted in the allegations against the appellant.

The appellant was committed for trial in November 1996, and applications were subsequently made on his behalf to stay the proceedings as an abuse of process on the ground of delay. The judge refused the applications, finding that the delay was not due to any fault on the prosecution's part, and that, although some prejudice was inevitable, it could be addressed at the trial by appropriate directions to the jury.

The appellant was convicted, and appealed on the grounds that the judge had erred in refusing to grant a stay; and that

he had failed to give a full and sufficient direction to the jury as to the prejudice caused to the defence by the delay.

It had further been submitted that the prejudice to the appellant caused by the delay could only have been sufficiently mitigated so as to provide a fair trial by forceful and even repetitive directions, drawing the jury's attention to the task of the prosecution of fulfilling the burden and standard of proof and that, in the event, the summing up had not been adequate in that respect.

The appellant was convicted, and appealed on the grounds that the judge had erred in refusing to grant a stay; and that

Crown case depended on late complaint and oral testimony. Before a conviction following such a trial could appear to be safe, the court had to be satisfied that the judge had confronted the jury with the fact of delay, and its potential impact on the formulation and conduct of the defence and on the prosecution's fulfillment of the burden of proof.

In the present case, the judge had not drawn the jury's attention at any stage to the point that there was such potential prejudice to the defendant by reason of the delay that the only real remedy was conscientious concern for the burden and standard of proof. He had sought to deal with delay by even-handedly drawing attention to its potential impact upon the prosecution evidence.

The court readily accepted that there was a place in the summing up for a reminder that it was potentially unfair to the complainants to be censorious about failures to recall witnesses, but by introducing the topic as a factor balancing and thus mitigating potential prejudice to the appellant, the judge had wrongly equated the problems confronting both prosecution and defence.

Moreover, the judge had rejected the respective submissions of counsel as to delay, but without a clear expression as to where he stood as the person seized of the task of securing a fair trial notwithstanding the delay, and had failed to take the opportunity afforded by his review of the evidence to put over the point about delay. In the circumstances, the court could not be satisfied that the convictions were safe.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

BROWSING THROUGH the Oxford English Dictionary on CD-Rom the other day, I discovered a centenary that we seem to have overlooked. For 1898 was the year anti-clockwise first appeared in print.

Clockwise and counter-clockwise had been around since 1888, which poses the question of how English

dates back to 1513, but the only comparable term I have found for clockwise is *deusil*, meaning in the direction of the sun and dating back only to 1571.

Did you know, incidentally, that clocks move their hands anti-clockwise? Put yourself in the position of the cincin and you will see it is true.

# Don't forget about Ricky

The Lawrence family is not the only one desperate to know the truth about their son's death. Last year, Ricky Reel's body was pulled from a river. Was he, too, the victim of a racist attack? By Angela Neustatter

**S**ukhdev Reel's recurrent nightmares are dreadful evocations of the evening Ricky died. In them she hears the voices of two white youths taunting her 20-year-old son Lakhvinder (known as Ricky) and his two friends, with cries of "Pakis go home".

She is as familiar with the spot where it happened - outside Bentalls shopping complex in Kingston, Surrey - as she is with the kitchen in her Southall home. From the day Ricky disappeared until his body was found, she was there almost every day, pacing back and forth, searching buildings, streets and big industrial dustbins where she feared she might find his body. Even now, she sometimes goes until the early hours of the morning, handing out leaflets with Ricky's photo and a description of his death, hoping somebody may come forward with a memory, some information. She says simply: "I still believe we will find a clue to what happened here."

On the night of 14 October 1997, Ricky, 20, an Asian student at Brunel

*"When I heard about the racial taunts, I felt very frightened. We all know what racial hatred can mean and what violence it can bring"*

University, went out with two friends to celebrate a 21st birthday. They were heading for a nightclub in Kingston, but before they got there explains Mrs Reel, a slight woman in a sari, whose soft-spoken composure falters as she battles with tears: "Two white youths approached and started racially abusing Ricky and the others, so Ricky's friends have told me. One of the friends asked 'what's your problem?' and then the white youths punched and attacked him and one of the others and they all split. I've always taught my children to get out rather than getting into fights. But as they ran, they got separated. That was the last his friends saw of Ricky."

A week later, Ricky's body was pulled out of the River Thames where, according to the pathologist's report, it had been for a week. A week when a story unfolded that she believes has parallels with the Stephen Lawrence case, where the police failed to accept that there could have been a racial element to the death.

When Ricky was not home by 8am the following morning, Mrs Reel and her husband Balwant were ex-



Balwant and Sukhdev Reel believe police could have done more to investigate the possibility that their son Ricky died as the result of a racial attack

tremely worried. She explains: "He always told me if he was going to be late home, and he'd promised to be in by 1am. I tried his mobile phone and it was turned off."

The next day, a police officer arrived and Ricky's friends were contacted and told police about the racial abuse. Mrs Reel says: "I felt very frightened. We know what racial hatred means, and what violence it can mean. I told the officer I thought Ricky might be in danger, but he quoted guidelines saying that if a person is over 18 and missing, there is nothing they can do before 24 hours is up.

She gestures, angrily now. "He acted as though Ricky had simply not come home, as though the fact he had been racially abused by men who clearly felt hostile towards Asians couldn't have had anything to do with Ricky's disappearance. He said 'if your son doesn't come home, contact us tomorrow'."

But even when the days went on and Ricky was still missing, the police did not trace the white youths, although they told the Reels they were searching for their son. Mrs Reel's anger makes her voice suddenly powerful: "We had to get our

own leaflets printed and we handed them out every day and every night in Kingston. We went with friends to the spot where the incident happened. We went into cafés and restaurants, we spoke to late night bus passengers, we formed a human chain and searched buildings. We didn't see any police searching and we only once saw police distributing leaflets."

The Reels later heard from a mixed-race man that, two days earlier, he too had been told "Paki go home" by three white youths, and assaulted in the same spot.

Any hopes the Reels had, that the police would investigate the cause of Ricky's death once his body had been found, were dashed by the inspector who visited Mrs Reel before the post-mortem, explaining Ricky's fly buttons had been found undone. She is scornful repeating what the policeman said. "His words were: 'In my opinion Ricky went to the river, tried to relieve himself, fell into the water and died instantly'. I told him Ricky had a phobia about water and would have been unlikely to choose that place to urinate."

"Besides, unless you are drunk,

which Ricky wasn't, it's very unlikely that you would just fall into the water. As for the 'evidence' of the buttons, I later discovered that some people, when they are taken out of water after a long time, have opened trouser buttons. It's something to do with the pressure of the water."

"The point is, the police had their answer as to what happened and didn't consider that Ricky might have been dragged to the water and chased there and fallen in."

Yet, in a statement in February after a second pathologist's report, where features of the lungs indicated

that he survived some time in the water and may have struggled, the Metropolitan Police said: "The possibility that Ricky was forced into the river or prevented from getting out of the water cannot be ruled out."

In desperation, the Reels contacted lawyer Louise Christian, who expresses disgust at what she sees as a failure in police methods, saying: "The police have a duty to investigate if there's the slightest suspicion it may not be accidental death. It's not adequate for the police to simply assume that Ricky was urinating."

Christian has also been told that there may be video footage from the street around the time Ricky disappeared which may provide further useful evidence.

The Metropolitan Police say they have conducted an enquiry into the way the case was handled and have written a report. Christian has been told that she and the Reels will be allowed to see this. She now intends to make a submission on the defects in the system to the second part of the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry which will consider the lessons

*"You would think, after all that the Lawrences have shown up in police attitudes to race, they would investigate. But no"*

to be learned from the Lawrence case. The Lawrence family, whose dignified and determined battle to see justice done has done much to expose what appears a culpable disregard for what racism can mean, feel much sympathy for the Reels and support the family's campaign.

Meanwhile, unless the police take further steps to trace the white men, Mr and Mrs Reel and their children, Ricky's three distraught siblings, are expected to accept that they will never know what happened to him.

She sighs, seeming suddenly so frail: "Of course I don't know if Ricky died at the hands of racists, but surely it's clear that's a possibility. You would think, after all that the Lawrences have shown up in police attitudes to race, they would investigate. But no."

"I am trying to accept that I shall never know what happened in my son's last minutes, and that is agonising. I once read that the failure of justice is worse than the crime and, although nothing could be worse than losing Ricky, knowing there hasn't been justice is going to make it much harder to live with."

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Alan Armstrong and Yvonne McCready celebrate their engagement on the police lines at Drumcree

David Rose

## Alan asked Yvonne to marry him, kissed her, then shouted: 'No Surrender!'

There's a new generation of Orangemen. And they don't all wear bowler hats. By Kim Sengupta

**P**etrobombs were flying at a dozen skirmishes on Monday night. Shots had been fired at the police, and a thousand loyalists were laying siege to Mo Mowlam's residence at Hillsborough. In Belfast and London, politicians appeared to be impotent to solve the impasse at Drumcree which was threatening Ulster's fragile new peace.

There, at nine o'clock outside the parish church, in front of the barrier of metal, concrete and barbed wire put up to prevent the Orange Order marching down the Catholic Garvagh Road, Alan Armstrong proposed to his fiancee Yvonne McCready. He kissed her, and the crowd cheered. Mr Armstrong then celebrated his forthcoming marriage by raising his clenched fist and shouting "No surrender!" This time the cheers were deafening. On the adjacent field a lambeg drum, a symbol of proud Protestantism, beat out an insistent role of defiance. Police helicopters circled overhead.

Mr Armstrong is 23. His future bride is 18. He was wearing a T-shirt, jeans and rings through his ears and eyebrows. Among him and his friends there was not a bowler hat or rolled up umbrella in sight. There were, however, plenty of the orange sashes that their fathers wore, and they proudly wear now.

The Loyal Orange Institution has repackaged itself in recent years. Its senior members insist it has evolved with the times. Its critics claim this is just a facade, the organisation remains committed to the maintenance of Protestant supremacy, and holds on to basically the same tenets it did when it was founded in 1795.

To many of their fellow citizens of the United Kingdom, the Orangemen remain a curious, anachronistic and mildly amusing white tribe. Yet it is this Orange Order, with its insistence on one of its seemingly quaint traditions, the walk down the Garvagh after a church service, that has caused the biggest political crisis in Northern Ireland since the referendum. All this may well prove rather confusing to the average man in Ishington.

On the Orange Order's Internet web site "What is an Orangeman?" is answered by "A Protestant... upholding the Protestant principle of freedom of conscience for all... a good neighbour... a gentleman respecting the sanctity of women and defending their rights." It denies its parades are anti-Catholic, "it is well to emphasise that all other faiths, including the Roman Catholic, enjoy equally the same freedoms that Orangemen celebrate each July."

But the rules for membership are quite clear. To qualify, a candidate must satisfy the Master that he was born to Protestant parents, assure the Order that he is "not, and never was, a Roman Catholic or Papist." Law number four states "any member disowning the institution by marrying a Roman Catholic shall be expelled."

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's recently elected First Minister, is an Orangeman. He has been denying, in strangely ambiguous terms, that he has threatened to resign if the Orange Order is not allowed to walk down Garvagh Road.

On Monday night Jeffrey Donaldson, his former friend, erstwhile deputy and ally who is said to covet his position arrived at the church. He

too is an Orangeman and feels they suffer from an unfair image problem. "People in England tend to stereotype the Orange Order", he said. "It has evolved, it is a responsible organisation which wants to get on with its lawful business. We all hope this problem will be resolved."

But where and how? "I can't tell you I'm afraid. I am a politician, not a prophet." With that he went off for a television interview.

"He is a politician, much more than an Orangeman," chucked a tall elderly man. "We must beware of politicians who try to use us. I don't blame Jeffery. He just suffers from overwhelming ambition. He went for the No campaign in the referendum because he thought he would end up as the leader of a united No party."

Colin Smith, a retired engineer,

chance sooner or later. It will take us just an hour to get several thousand people together and then we shall complete our march."

There is a sense of bewilderment and betrayal at what many see as their loyalty to the British crown being flung back with contempt on their faces. Robert Ellis said: "I suppose one feels angry that we are not wanted. A lot of young people volunteered, fought and died for Queen and country. We just feel we deserve a little better than this."

As the evenings fall, the fields of Drumcree are full of tents and cars. Beyond the barbed wire and the ditch are the silent lines of police, troops and armoured cars.

The air is full of the smell of frying sausages but the atmosphere is more one would imagine a medieval fair to have been like, with drums and trumpets of various bands who have come to show their support.

In the evenings there is also a subdued but distinct sense of unease and, to some, menace. The Irish television channel RTE would not send their crews into the Orange lines after dark, and journalists from Dublin also tend to leave as the day ends. In the darkness, young men wearing T-shirts of the illegal Loyalist Volunteer Force, responsible according to the police for a series of sectarian murders of Catholics, move among the crowds. It is also the time when you hear the most anti-Catholic sentiments.

About 25 years ago there began a transfer of population along the Garvagh Road, with Protestants moving out and Catholics moving in. "that's when the trouble started" said Alex who'd rather not have his surname published.

"The Catholics just let the area run down and down. They also imported crime in a big way. Most of them are into social security fiddlers, what they can't get from fraud, they steal."

His wife Joan, a smiling motherly woman, said: "These people, I hate to say, but they breed like rabbits. That's the plan, we shall soon be the minority. Then they can

be the next sickness the summer sales tap into."

Roy Cookson added: "This country has been built by the industry of the Scots-Irish. All this will be ruined, these people are into bandits, they don't know what it's like to build something out of nothing through hard work."

Another man declares "Red, white and blue are the colours of the Bible. That is why all the Northern European countries have these colours on their flags. To get other colours you have to go to the dags of the beathen countries." The man's name disconcertingly, is Brown.

What of the future? Alan, who became engaged to Yvonne at the barrier, is clear in his views: "It is our right to walk wherever we want to. They have no right to stop us. There will be no compromise."

Linishing her arm through his, Yvonne says: "We have been pushed around for long enough it's only natural we should make a stand."

A stall next to the Drumcree church sells loyalist memorabilia and souvenirs.

There are William of Orange tea towels and cassettes with songs about Michael Stone, the Milltown cemetery killer. But the most popular item, which has rapidly sold out is a baby's bib saying "Born to walk the Garvagh Road."

THE SUMMER sales fill me with loathing. Not that I have anything against saving money. I love a real bargain as much as the next jerk or shopper. In my mind, the sales drop us screaming into the devil's underpants and leave us struggling to find a way out. You don't save money; you are shopping in hell.

We are lulled into thinking that the shops are doing us a favour by marking everything down. The ads in the papers cry "Fifty per cent off!"

Bargains galore! Free money! How can we forget all the times these shops have taunted us with items Elton John couldn't afford? I saw a jacket the other day that cost more than my car. Granted, it was larger and prettier than my car, but really, OK, I will admit that I would have sold my children (if I had any) for that jacket. Then there can be the minority. Then they can bold another referendum and get their United Ireland."

Roy Cookson added: "This country has been built by the industry of the Scots-Irish. All this will be ruined, these people are into bandits, they don't know what it's like to build something out of nothing through hard work."

Expert shoppers, like the knights, sport armour with no regard for aesthetics. Women wear leggings and skinny rib tops so that they can change, shamelessly and painlessly, in public. No changing room queues for them. Meanwhile, the rest of us keep our wallets in our brassieres to prevent friendly pickpockets from taking our credit cards and eat endless chocolate to keep up that feeling of ready excitement throughout the day.

So we dress up like cat burglars, but for what exactly? I once spent a whole day trawling around a department store (which shall remain nameless as I still harbour huge feelings), marking the location of everything I wanted. The next day, I waited dutifully for the shop to open. Sprinting through the rooms, I couldn't find anything I'd seen the day before. They had hidden all the good stuff! I bought £150 of stuff I didn't need and left in a Huff.

One hears stories of great bargains. "I found this," says she, pointing to a perfect

cashmere cardigan. "in the sales, marked down to £10." "This shirt," says another: "was a two-for-one. Buy one shirt for £5 and get another free." "See this silk blouse?" says the third. "They PAID ME to take this silk blouse."

This is all propaganda. In the sales, our size no longer exists. What's left are the feisty tiny things or the Clydesdale sizes. Little known fact: circus folk always wait for the sales. If you see something you like, usually someone else already has it. No one has yet worked out the proper etiquette for asking another shopper for something she's trying on in one of the hot communal changing rooms. "May I try that on after you?" comes out as, "Gimme that, you skinny bitch!" It's the heat that makes us tell the truth.

Few people know that Prozac was invented specifically for the summer sales. No wonder, when getting to the racks is like mountaineering over human flesh. Once there, those with the longest arms and the sharpest elbows get the best gear. This is not the time for finer feelings: the woman who grabbed that top I wanted did this, I could tell by her tattoo.

Found something you want, have you? Time to confront the special sales clerks. These are SAS-trained mercenaries who follow the summer sales all over the globe and they aren't about to take any guff from you.

"I would like a further discount," I overheard a lady say politely. "This garment has an ink stain." "It's an AS IS sale," spat the burly cashier, the small cigarillo dangling from her thin, cracked lips. I was too frightened to ask where the loos were after that.

The summer sales deserve our hatred because they pretend to be something they're not. If you shop enough, you'll see that stores have sales all the time. Christmas, Easter, St Swithins Day or one of those awful Better Than Closing Down sales, you've got to remember those stores are gaging for your hard-earned pound.

My advice? Treat the summer sales as if they were a group of men in a sports car. You mustn't look: that's what they want.

Who will pay the price for female success? Husbands, children or their less well-educated contemporaries? By Yvonne Roberts

## You're on the way up. Just don't have children

DO YOU find yourself increasingly mad about women? Are you growing more and more alarmed by what appears to be the unstoppable transformation of females from the weaker to the vastly overcompensated sex? Then - at first glance - two reports in the past week will not have eased your temper.

The first, published by the London Research Centre, announced that women now make up half London's workforce. Many are concentrated in the service sector, in careers such as lawyers and accountants. So, while male employment has dropped by 5 per cent, the female workforce has grown by 2 per cent. "Women are white-collar winners in top job stakes", read the headline in the *Evening Standard*.

The second report, sponsored by Tesco for the pressure group Women in Journalism (WIJ), announced yet another first. If you are young, gifted, female and in newspapers, you are likely to be earning significantly more than your male colleague. Women under the age of 35 earn an average annual salary of £23,000 compared with £25,000 for their male colleagues. In historical milestones, this is akin to Eve giving the forbidden fruit back to Adam and telling him to eat his own apple.

There is, of course, a less florid interpretation. That is that some

women, a minority of women, have learned to operate the system as one of the boys. And good for them - while it lasts. But where does that leave almost half of working women who don't work full time and who lack sufficient qualifications? And what happens to the female high flyers once they stop becoming one of the lads and step into what too many employers regard as the Oh no! Zone - motherhood?

In 1996, Shirley Dex and Heather Joshi conducted a study into employment after childbearing. What they discovered is that so long as qualified women zipped rapidly back to work, they are "less likely to suffer occupation downgrading and more likely to retain their employment benefits". Note the tentative use of the word "likely". In contrast, unqualified women face casualised contracts, few fringe benefits and less security. Once they have children, most switch to part-time work.

One in three professional mothers works full-time compared with one in 50 among the unskilled. Female part-time workers earn around 80 per cent of the average full-time male worker's wage. In addition, they face greater poverty in old age through lack of pension cover or contributions. So, we have the bottom 40 per cent of women who not only have to contend with the gender gap,

they also face the great education divide which, over the years, is gradually splitting the sisterhood into first and second class steerage. Hardly progress.

Of course, female high flyers enjoy fat salaries and lots of kudos.

Fifty women now earn more than a million a year, compared to 14 four years ago. That kind of success is sure to escalate. But at a price. The price is that some women are opting out of motherhood because they fear the impact on their career (according to a study in childlessness published today by the Rowntree Trust). Others have children but continue, as many men always have done, to marginalise their families. The solution for many is a female one. Women give up paid work, or

they join the part-time ghetto, or they trim their ambition. So, does Disgraced of Tunbridge Wells really have cause to be mad about women - or should he be mad, even spitting furious, at the system which rewards both men and women only if they abdicate responsibility for the less material aspects of parenthood?

It's a system which the feminism I signed up for vowed to change for the betterment of all - not to learn to run with more ruthless aplomb than the lads.

Three cast members are missing from this saga. The first is children - whose needs have yet to win centre stage either in New Labour's Back to Work drive. The other two are employers and the government.

New Labour is espousing the virtues of good childcare as a means of producing happy, rounded offspring. That also means acknowledging that family and work life have to achieve a balance. A ministerial group on the family, headed by Home Secretary Jack Straw, is considering such dilemmas. In a couple of weeks, the National Family and Parent Institute also opens its doors. But what will be the employers' role?

Employers could change the culture of the workplace overnight. Why not, for instance, a child care levy on all big business? In Britain, less than 2 per cent of employers

offer childcare, while parents meet over 85 per cent of costs. Elsewhere in Europe, according to the Daycare Trust, the split is more likely to be divided into thirds - employee, government and employer.

It's not just about resources, it's also about the structure of work; flexi-time, term-time working, job share, retraining. And the attitudes that prevail. Going home at a reasonable time is not as scary, once the boss makes it a normal practice.

Even if it did become easier for a woman to continue her career as well as fulfil her role as a mother, even if the unqualified part-time worker was better valued - one more earthquake would have to occur. Traditionally women stayed at home with the children because men earned more. This is less the case. A decade ago, one in fifteen women earned more than their male partner. Now it is one in five. Acquiring a healthier blend between work and home and children has to become a male as well as a female responsibility.

The more men who remain at home or who learn to tailor their career, the value of what is now still termed "mothering" will soar - and the better for all.

Mad about women? Or mad enough to start pressing for the changes that count?



Diane Keaton in the film 'Baby Boom'. Will children pay the price of their mothers' success?

# Dancing all the way to the bank

**Lilian Hochhauser is in the business of filling opera houses, but playing safe with ballet billing can only get you so far. By Louise Levene**

**S**ome idiot once said that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Tell that to the Royal Opera House. Daily horror stories about resignations and sackings coupled with the withering analysis of Gerald Kaufman and Richard Eyre have convinced the paying public that those in charge of Covent Garden couldn't run a bath.

Forward planning has not been a strong point. They knew the Opera House was closing. So how come they ended up playing to thin houses at the Shaftesbury Theatre and the Hammersmith Apollo? The Royal Ballet rather fancied the Coliseum for summer '98. Fat chance. The impresario Victor Hochhauser has virtually had a season ticket for the Coliseum's summer months since 1970, bringing over the Kirov, the Bolshoi and the American Ballet Theatre.

"We do have this lien on the theatre," says Lilian Hochhauser. "We've been almost in residence there for 30 years." But all was not lost. There were no Russians coming this year so a deal was struck and the Royal Ballet climbed into bed with the private sector in return for a flat fee. This means that Mrs Hochhauser, not Sir Anthony Dowell, got to choose the ballets.

Mrs Hochhauser has very firm ideas about what the public will and won't buy. She's very wary of *Giselle*. The romantic love tragedy has been a vehicle for some of the greatest ballerinas who ever lived, but it can be the kiss of death at the box office. "The dancers love it, critics love it but the ending is sad, the composer isn't widely known and the public has never turned out in large numbers for it." Basically, what they want is *Swan Lake* and plenty of it, and Mrs Hochhauser is not the woman to deny them.

The Tchaikovsky ballets are the thing – I wish he'd written a fourth really. This firm belief in the pulling power of Peter Ilyich means that both *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping*

*Beauty* are on the menu during the Royal Ballet's Coliseum season. And both are selling well. What hasn't been selling so fast is the triple bill. You suspect that in her heart of hearts Mrs Hochhauser is not a big believer in triple bills. "They don't attract the public." So why did she let the Royal Ballet have one? "I didn't choose it but here was a moment when they wanted to do what they wanted to do and I know when I'm beaten."

Lilian's involvement with the Royal Ballet will be even greater now that she has been appointed to Covent Garden's Ballet Board. This is a nebulous gathering of the dance-minded arts professionals that meets several times a year in some sort of advisory capacity – although quite what Richard Jarman, the current artistic director of the Royal Opera House, will do with all this advice is anyone's guess.

Mrs Hochhauser is suitably proud and humble at her appointment. "I think I've become some kind of ballet expert over the years and I joined with alacrity, but there are and will be problems."

If she had been on board earlier what advice would she have given to help the Royal Ballet through the ill-fated season at Hammersmith? She pulls a face. Handsome Hampstead ladies in Armani suits like Mrs Hochhauser don't really do Hammersmith. "You were in tears by the time you got there."

OK, so the Apollo was the venue from hell, but did that make it unmarketable? You can practically hear her adding-machine-like brain ticking over as she makes the best of the problem she's been set. She responds almost instantly and her solutions are an invigorating draught of neat common sense: "I would have spent more on newspaper advertising. I place a lot of my trust in newspaper advertising."

She has very little faith in the mailing list as a sales tool: "Lists are extremely costly. It's OK if you have a list of people who are specifically interested in that company, that rep,

but very often these lists are quite general." In the event the Royal Ballet was using its mailing list to offload unsold tickets: "The prices were too high for that place." Ticket offers of any kind are anathema to her – they prove that you got it wrong: "Discounts create a lot of ill will with people who've paid full price."

Mrs Hochhauser knows that dance doesn't sell itself and her long experience of the market makes her

very dubious about the whole idea of a "dance house" for London. "I think it's a very bad idea. I know what it is to fill the Coliseum for five weeks let alone 52. I just don't see the point of it."

Mrs Hochhauser's doggedly unimaginative approach has served her well, but she is firmly in the business of giving people what they want and expect. She doesn't like taking risks and her long experience

in the unsubsidised sector seems to make her incapable of imagining the audience you might get if you offered it something totally new at prices it could easily afford.

Is she absolutely sure a dance house couldn't be made to work? Think of the audiences you could attract with the likes of New York City or Paris Opera Ballet, Mark Morris, Pina Bausch... Mrs Hochhauser smiles indulgently.

"When you're in the ballet world these things are very meaningful but it's not so with the general public. If you put Pina Bausch on at the Coliseum you'd be lucky if you had half a house."

It's depressing, it's unimaginative but it's a very professional attitude and it contrasts bracingly with the – go on, say it – rather amateur approach often seen at Covent Garden. The Royal Opera House has a lot to

Laurie Lewis

learn from this hard-headed way with audiences and budgets, but they shouldn't sign up for the whole course. The Hochhausers have served ballet and the ballet-going public splendidly over the past 40 years but they exist principally to make money. Ultimately Covent Garden exists to make art.

Royal Ballet, London Coliseum, to 1 Aug (0171-632 8300)

Peter Abegglen takes a leap into the private sector in the Royal Ballet's 'La Bayadère'

## Just a knockout

**OPERA**  
**PUNCH AND JUDY**  
**CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL**  
**OF MUSIC**

THE CHELTENHAM Festival of Music has its share of premieres this year but, as a composer himself, artistic director Michael Berkeley knows that new work needs not only a first performance, but a revival, and preferably many more to follow. He decided that this year's festival should open with Music Theatre Wales's new staging of Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy*, first performed at the 1978 Aldeburgh Festival, when Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears famously left early. There were early departures at Cheltenham too, but by and large, the audience remained attentive to an intelligent staging, well-sung and beautifully played.

Which is not to say there were no problems. In a lengthy programme note, librettist Stephen Pruslin says he and Birtwistle saw *Punch and Judy* as "an opera about opera". Thirty years ago, that may have been desirable, but now, with new opera all but dying on its feet, opera must be much more than that. Pruslin's libretto is wordy, poetic in a preeningly mannered style, and the narrative structure, too, is over-elaborate, with a sequence of Melodramas, Passion Chorales and Quests looking sound on paper, but less clear on stage, where the heavy symbolism becomes obscure.



Punch is a demented Everyman Marilyn Kingwell

Birtwistle saw musical drama then, as now, as a cycle of obsessively repeated rituals, and there's no doubt that Pruslin's libretto fired his imagination. In Michael McCarthy's production, the ensemble of 14 players is onstage, agent as well as commentator of the drama. Simon Banham's set is dominated by a huge frame which also functions as a globe for Punch's multiple murders. Through the frame we see the orchestra, and beyond that, Punch from time-to-time rides his cock-horse in search of Pretty Polly.

Polly herself bravely sung by Nicola-Jane Kemp, is all crazy coloratura, and hence dressed in canary yellow. More doll than person, she allows some kind of redemption, but one made hollow by the distancing commentary of narrator. Choreographer (the superb Jeremy Huw Williams), here a ringmaster intent on control and obedience. If Judy (Carol Rowlands) is little more than a cipher, a

## Decibels, death riffs and howling despair

**MELTDOWN**  
**EXTREME NOISE**  
**TERROR**  
**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL**  
**LONDON**

down of Control, billed to perform an "epic Jaçcore spectacular". They match ENT for brutality but differ in their spaced-out quality, which wins them derision and accusations of tripping from the ENT fans.

But unfazed Meltdown mix Tangerine Dream-style ocean roar with bows of despair and "Blue Monday" drum machine. Guitar keening, the singer struts belligerently all over the stage and then, apparently tiring of that, lets out a high-pitched roar. And holds it.

The sound calls to mind an abattoir saw. It's getting too much but now comes a moment which lightens things up: a spiky, half-naked Jesus hauls himself onto the stage, and crawls towards the singer, waving his arms. The whole audience seems to crane forward. You can almost hear them thinking this looks juicy.

Then, with one hand, a bouncer yanks the dissident out of the spotlight and drags him into the shadows. A minute later Jesus is back, propped in his seat. Meltdown go into overdrive. They slam a sheet of copper against a speaker, and stab the keyboard frantically. As if to kill it. As if once had been implicated in melody.

DAVID WILSON

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# Goodbye to the gingham set

The choreography for *Oklahoma!* has always been off-limits. Only one person could be trusted to change it – Susan Stroman. By David Benedict



**I**t's just something about this show. There's been a lot of laughter in rehearsals. I think Trevor Nunn is smiling more than he has in a long time," says Susan Stroman. And with good reason. Not only is he helming *Oklahoma!*, one of the most revolutionary musicals of all time, but he's got choreographer Stroman on board.

This 40-something woman from Wilmington, Delaware, single-handedly reminded Broadway (and London) of the power of dance with audiences and critics going nuts over her electrifying work on the revamped Gershwin musical, *Crazy For You*, which exploded on to Broadway six years ago. It happened again at London's Prince Edward Theatre and on a year-long tour. That same theatre is now hosting Hal Prince's grand revival of the ground-breaking *Show Boat*. Its second act is famously problematic, with a climax which almost never has real emotional weight. This time, a cunningly integrated new dance sequence lifts the temperature and propels you to the finish. The choreographer? Stroman, of course.

In this country, the composer/lyricist team of Rodgers and Hammerstein is probably best known for the sugary, precision-engineered *The Sound of Music*. Back home, they're the guys behind *Oklahoma!*, the musical which, dance-wise, broke the mould, making Stroman the dream choice to take it on. So much so that the normally wary Rodgers and Hammerstein estate have virtually laid down and played dead.

In half a century, no professional production has ever been allowed to mess with Agnes de Mille's original choreography. It was her first Broadway show – she'd been fired from two others – and the first Rodgers and Hammerstein collaboration, but it made everyone's names and smashed records. No-one before de Mille had ever used dance to such dramatic effect. Without it, we might never have had Bernstein's *On the Town*, let alone *West Side Story*. Not only did de Mille use dance to flesh out character and mood, but he dared to close the first act on a 15 minute ballet dramatising the fantasies and fears of Laurey, the central character.

The estate has given the cre-



Susan Stroman (above left) was given carte blanche with her 'Oklahoma!' (above), which bears little resemblance to the original production Laurie Lewis (above and above left)

ative team *carte blanche*. This tends to happen when Stroman's around. She had the same freedom with Jerome Kern's music on *Show Boat*, and before that on Gershwin's *Crazy For You*. "I think I have a track record in developing music for dance without being sacrilegious," she says, modestly.

Had she been offered the project in the USA, she probably wouldn't have done it. "It's so done there. Americans still romanticise the West, but Trevor is going back to what it was really like in 1905. Americans want red bandanas, gingham skirts and flowers in their hair."

The combination of the National and Nunn was the attraction. "Trevor talked about his vision of it in a way I had never heard. He's gone back to the original play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, and interpolated some of the dialogue, and David Krane has come up with entirely new dance arrangements. It's as if we're doing it for the first time."

It's certainly tougher than its reputation as a corny "girl-gets-the-right-guy" show would suggest. Ok-

lahoma was about to become a state and the text deals with the social change and how it affects the "territory folks" who are living together and staking claims on the land. "When I met Trevor, he said the most important line in the show was Aunt Eller singing 'I don't say I'm nobetter than anybody else/But I'll be damned if I ain't just as good!' That kind of sums up the way people felt. It really sums up *Oklahoma!*"

Most choreographers begin when their dancing days are numbered but Stroman knew that choreography was what she wanted to do from the word go. "Even when I was very small, I visualised music. Whether it was classical or rock 'n' roll or an old standard, I would always imagine hordes of people dancing in my head. It's almost an obsession." She studied piano and guitar but has been dancing all her life.

Yet what really distinguishes her is her dedication to theatre. "Dance is an affirmation of life. People really connect with it when they see it but in a musical it has to be believable. If you can't work it in properly then

it will be, as you say, 'naff'. Musicals of the Twenties and Thirties had 'star turns'. You could stop everything for Ethel Merman to sing 'I Got Rhythm' and if it had nothing to do with anything then that was fine. But modern audiences have a more cinematic eye. Dance has to move the plot."

Finding the cast, all of whom have to be actor/singer/dancers, took forever but the result is, instead of having dancers take over as the leads in the crucial dream ballet, the same performers do everything. "Today's audience won't take Laurey dreaming about a chorus boy we've never seen before." Another typically character-driven rethink is the girls' number, "Many a New Day". Traditionally this features them in bloomers doing four *Swan Lake* steps and leads more critical-minded viewers to wonder how slow-poke cowmen and farmers managed to send their daughters to ballet school. Stroman and Nunn have gone for realism. "It's more like pioneer women talking about these men."

"When you're young you need to be able to speak out with any idea.

Even if it's silly it will spark an idea in a senior collaborator's brain. It's about not being intimidated by the track record of your collaborators. That was very early for me and I was working with the best. It's seven years later and this time she's got figures like Nunn and designer Anthony Ward surrounding her, but she's wised up. She laughs, loudly. "I have a big old mouth now. Even if it doesn't come out right, it's out there."

## HANDS OFF! WHEN LITERARY ESTATES PLAY TOUGH

Those entrusted with looking after literary estates can be ferocious in their zeal, and Samuel Beckett has probably enjoyed the best protection. Four years ago, his nephew and heir, Edward, who had once previously halted an all-female production of *Waiting for Godot*, took issue with a version of *Footfalls* at the Garrick. The director, Deborah Warner, and the actress, Fiona Shaw (pictured below), came a cropper when they attempted to fiddle about with Beckett's



stage directions for the 1976 production, which featured his thespian muse, Billie Whitelaw, and consisted of a 20-minute dialogue – which was originally a radio play – between the repressed, obsessive May (Shaw) and her unseen, dying or dead mother.

"As a theatre practitioner appear to be a better friend to Beckett than the estate. These plays are not museum pieces," said Warner when permission for a planned French tour was withdrawn.

"She will not be doing Beckett again," Schmidt supposedly said, though a few days later he wrote a letter to the papers denying that Warner had been excommunicated. The French tour was still off, he said, but she could direct his uncle's work in the future ("and I personally hope that she does," he added) – as long as she stuck to the stage directions.

Executors are not always so obstructively protective. Michael Grandage, producer of *Bernard Shaw's The Doctor's Dilemma* at the Almeida, feared a similar experience to Warner, but had the reverse experience: "I rang up Michael Holroyd [of the Shaw estate] and said, 'There are a couple of cuts I'd like to make, but I understand it's not possible...' But he immediately said, 'No, please, please ... we need to make these plays live for now.'"

JULIA WERDIGIER



Despite the visceral thrill of her most vivid recreations, Stroman's first love is new work. Her collaborations with Kander and Ebb led her to workshop their *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* towards the beginning of her career. They've worked together since, but it wasn't a happy experience and she never did the full show. Nevertheless, she learned something from the workshop.

"When you're young you need to be able to speak out with any idea.

## TELEVISION

'One's admiration for Rosalind's resilience can't really be separated from her strikingly blokeish appearance'

– THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 24 ➤

## Don't make a drama out of a tragedy

ZEITGEIST THEATRE company's *The Galitzian Jewess* is one of the most engrossing and affecting pieces I have seen on the fringe in a long while. Yet applying the usual critical standards, Brigitte Schweiger's monologue, translated by Penny Black, is not great shakes. The language is unremarkable, the turns of phrase inert, and in terms of structure, this account of a young Jewish woman's struggle to survive and rootless wanderings in Poland during the Second World War is episodic and rambling.

The production nevertheless derives considerable power from its authenticity: the play is based on a biography of a Polish Jew named Eva Deutsch, who managed to pass herself off as a Roman Catholic and escape the gas chamber. On stage, the bald descriptions of the inhuman punishment meted out to Jews following the Ger-

### ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

sure that never strays into self-conscious heroics. Whether recounting narrow escapes from the German or close shaves with wild boar, Syron tells the story simply, looking her audience squarely in the eye – and in so doing makes a compelling case for this kind of unadorned sequence of memories.

The same cannot quite be said for *Yes, My Führer*, an earlier Schweiger monologue that now acts as a companion piece. Inspired by the life of her mother, an Austrian, it attempts to show why Hitler made so many *Hausfrauen* go weak at the knees and dares to suggest that not all of them repented their Nazi zeal.

Being picked on at school, abused by her mother – these are some of the

well-rehearsed anecdotes offered by the anonymous woman (Jacqueline Pilton) to explain the allure of the National Socialist collective ego-boost. "You could kill me for being a Nazi, but don't laugh at me," she pleads. Unfortunately, the production prefers the easy laughs afforded by her incongruous cuteness to more painful soul-searching. Recalling going out shopping with her baby, she jokes: "His little arm would shoot right up in the air." Shades of Mrs Merton are the last thing you need when examining one of Hitler's willing executioners.

There is more unnecessary comedy in Brian Blessed's directorial debut – a 50th anniversary tour of *The Glass Menagerie*. Before you attempt Tennessee Williams's tale of cooped-up ambitions and unhealthy dreams you need to be pretty sure you've found a cast that are up to the accents. The play may be

set in Thirties' St Louis, but after two hours it feels as though we'd been from Jamaica to Dublin and back via Elton.

It's best not to dwell on the set – the junk shop interior, the *Blue Peter*-competition cityscape, or Blessed's little flourishes. Such "tricks" as pumping out the Superman theme-tune prior to the arrival of the gentleman caller who breaks wallflower Laura's heart do not constitute "the magic of theatre" his programme note suggests Williams "believed in". Only Phillipa Peak, whose Laura is as frail and mesmerising as the glass creatures she worships, allowed us to enter a landscape of pained desire.

*The Galitzian Jewess* and *Yes, My Führer*, in rep at Sun, Etcetera Theatre, London NW1 (0171 482 4857); *The Glass Menagerie* to 19 Jul, Bac, London SW1 (0171 223 2223).

### DEBUT

AT THE: Siobhan Cusack  
THE TIME: 1996

THE PLACE: The Albany Theatre, Dublin

THE ROLE: Everyman. First Love in 'One for the Grave'



the immortal line, "Look at that couple in the punt".

Someone in the rehearsals had warned me to be very careful about that line, in case it came out the wrong way round. I told him not to be so disgusting – the thought hadn't entered my head. I was a good convent girl, after all. Well, sure

enough, I committed the spoonerism on the first night, in front of an audience of VIPs. Instead of carrying on, I back-tracked and tried to find my way out of it, by which time the audience were on their feet and roaring. Layde was shaking with laughter. All I can remember is the hot flush of mortification, the sheen of tears across my eyes. I have blotted out everything that happened subsequently – whether the director bolted me, I can't remember. I didn't repeat the mistake, but my card was marked from that moment

on and I was kicked out after three months. I had to go across the water to establish myself.

The episode did traumatised me for quite a while. In fact, it took me years to recover. There has never been anything as bad, but the few times in my career when I have died, there has been a terror that the problem will become increasingly more difficult to deal with. Somehow you come through it, though, and it doesn't frighten you so much that you never go on stage again. I suppose some part of me must enjoy living on that knife-edge."

Siobhan Cusack is currently appearing in *'Our Lady of the Sierras'* in rep at the Cottesloe, RNT, London, SE1 (0171 452 3000).

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COMEDY THEATRE

THE SEMINAL moment in my acting career was the first night of *One for the Grange* by Louis MacNeice, the production chosen to mark the opening of the new Abbey Theatre. The old building had burned down in 1951 and the Abbey Theatre company had since been housed at the Queen's Theatre. I had landed the juvenile lead and I was pretty excited – I was just an 18-year-old student. I was playing Everyman's First Love, who represented all that is innocent and pure in a woman. I had this very touching scene down at the front of the stage with Pat Layde, who was Everyman. It was his character's first foray into the world of female sexuality. We were supposed to be by a river, and stare off into the middle-distance. I had

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**MENSWEAR**  
PARIS AND MILAN SPRING 1999

# Fashion's last resort

**Tartan shorts, flip-flops and Kajagoogoo haircuts are the hot thing in menswear as German package tourists' style give designers their inspiration. By Adrian Clark**



They're all going on a summer holiday: Jean Paul Gaultier (main pic), Vivienne Westwood (top) and Gucci

Andrew Thomas

**A**ny man who has ever sacrificed his standard two-week vacation by opting to take the package tour route would be forced to agree that a bucket shop buy can be many things, but fashionable is not one of them. A cheap package is an opportunity to let your hair down, an excuse to get a low budget tan and consume bucketfuls of lager without running the risk of being caught out by a more discerning crowd. Those 14 days and nights abroad usually have more to do with having fun (depending on how near to being finished the hotel is), but very little to do with sartorial elegance.

in Milan and Paris last week. The idea that a quick getaway to a Greek island or the Costa del Tourismo could never be considered chic, is now a theory seriously under debate.

If the collections we saw in Milan and Paris are to be believed, then British men will be shrugging off their double-breasted suits in favour of a style which is taken directly from the glossy pages of a travel brochure. Tourist Class is the ultimate call.

Nobody pursued the newfound interest in holiday chic more convincingly than Jean-Paul Gaultier. His collection drew its ideas from the uniform worn by German tourists on the Algarve. Without a single reference to beach towels or sun loungers, the Frenchman chose long socks, flip-flops and *knickerbockers*, inspired by the

accessorise layers of khaki mesh and tartan shorts and vests. Gaultier's spin on a beach robe is well tailored in satin deckchair stripes.

Vivienne Westwood, the Brit who opts to showcase her menswear in Milan, was also in holiday mood. For Viv, a new way with Caribbean cool was the order of the day, offering tropical floral prints on cotton and towelling in

total prints on cotton and towelling in the form of sarongs, and separates in cocktail colours.

Gucci, under the competent direction of Tom Ford, showed a little more class (just a little), with a brilliant take on West Coast playboy style - sixties inspired Hawaiian florals on narrow pants or wetsuits, while jeans that had the Vegas Strip written all over them were embroidered in rhinestones and studded with diamonds.

D-Squared, a new name in Milan designed by twin brothers Dan and Dean Caten, was on good form. Models stepped out from a camper van onto white sand, dressed in American trash clothing straight off a Miami Beach volleyball game.

American flag layered vests, fishing hats and combat shorts were finished off with beer bottle openers worn on chains around the neck.

comes from the work of Jackson Pollock and Bridget Riley as designed by Dolce and Gabbana and So. Paul Smith caught the art bug too, with up-to-the-minute interpretations.

lowed by dishevelled fine artists in watercolour stained knits, ripped jeans and inside-out tailored jackets. The artists' palette split over onto the catwalks in both cities. There was lilac and parma violet at Versace (under the direction of Donatella), apricot and ice blue at Jil Sander, and shades of kiwi green with mane from Miyake.

The two collections that will be the first choice for fashionable men the world over come from Hedi Slimane the new menswear designer at Yves Saint Laurent, and the Belgian Raf Simons. And if you happen to be on holiday in the Algarve over the next few weeks, take note. German tourists have nothing to do with it.

*Adrian Clark is fashion director of [www.elle.com](http://www.elle.com)*

A garment that can really make a change

IS IT a skirt? Is it a dress? No, it's the *StarckNaked*, a one-piece fashion miracle designed by Phillippe Starck for Wolford. When it arrived here it looked like a pile of discarded black opaque tights, but the chic explanatory packaging revealed another story. Beautiful model wears black tights and black mini-skirt, ditto for knee-length, calf-length and full-length skirts. full-length boob tube dress with or without straps. It's being called "technically advanced multi-wear", and yes, all of these looks can be achieved with one piece of clothing. It looks sizeist, but I am assured it is a garment for confident women, regardless of size, who can wear body-hugging clothes with aplomb.

credibly long tube skirt, with a thick elasticated waistband; look inside, however, and attached to the waistband (dangling within the skirt bit) is a pair of 80 denier black tights. Work out the tights and the rest is child's play (except that it's practically impossible to go to the toilet whilst wearing it).

"without the pretense nor the ambition to conquer". I'd say it's a logical progression from Slip-On's, launched last year by Monica Zipper, which provided several individual garments from a high denier stocking fabric. It's the sort of wonder product that will become essential for women who travel a lot for work: it weighs next-to-nothing, doesn't wrinkle and can be

evening with just a quick trip to the ladies' room for adjustment. The drawback is that however often the dress/skirt length scenario can be adapted the tights stay the same.

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## Yes, it could happen to you

Spending a little money now could save a great deal of trouble in the future.  
By Tony Bonsignore and Tony Lyons

AS WE celebrate the 50th birthday of the National Health Service, demand for medical care continues to increase inexorably. At the same time, we are also having to learn to rely less on the state to take care of us if we suffer from long-term illness or incapacity.

There are different types of insurance policies available to cover medical treatment, provide an income or lump sum if you suffer from illness or accident that prevents you from working for more than a few weeks, and to provide long-term care. Think of your weekly outgoings, mortgage, direct debits, loans, groceries, leisure activities and other assorted bills. And now think what would happen if your income was suddenly taken away from you because of long-term illness or an accident, and you were forced to live on a fraction of what you currently earn, perhaps as little as £50 a week?

Our natural response is that it could never happen to us. Unfortunately it can and often does. Last year, some 200,000 people were away from work for between six months and a year. More than 750,000 people were away from work for more than three years. The state does little to help. Incapacity Benefit starts at just £48.80 a week, rising to £64.70 after a year. And even this meagre amount is not easy to come by. The qualifying restrictions on the current benefit are far meaner than with its predecessor, Invalidity Benefit. To qualify now you must prove you are unable to do any occupation, not just the one you were doing before you fell ill.

For a few lucky souls, a small but growing band of employers provide automatic insurance for their employees to guard against the threat of long-term illness. Such policies are confusingly called Permanent Health Insurance (PHI).

A stand-alone PHI contract is also available either direct from an insurer or via a financial adviser. Nigel Bourke, an independent adviser in Stockton-on-Tees, says: "Such policies are important for anyone who relies on their earned income. Unless you are one of the

We think it won't happen to us. It did happen to 200,000 people last year

should depend upon what other provisions have been made, such as an employer scheme, savings or other insurance. The price and availability of PHI is also dependent on a number of personal factors such as age, sex, job and lifestyle.

Another key factor is how PHI fits in with other insurance, particularly critical illness cover, which pays out a lump sum in the event that you are struck down with a specified serious illness. Many insurers and financial advisers suggest a mix between the two.

The biggest obstacle to getting cover, however, remains one of perception. If you are lucky you will never need to claim on a policy, and you will be paying out money you will never see again. Of course, there is the very real chance you could be one of the unlucky ones.

Tony Bonsignore writes for "Financial Adviser"

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## Keep your income healthy

The last thing you need on top of a serious illness is to be worried about making ends meet. But how badly will your income be hit? And how can you protect against fate? By Abigail Montrose

A SERIOUS illness can severely affect your finances as well as your health. You may have to give up work or take a lower paid job which could affect your family and lifestyle. One way to protect yourself against this is to take out critical illness insurance which pays out a lump sum if you are diagnosed as suffering from one of a number of life-threatening illnesses.

This may seem unnecessary but the statistics say otherwise. Every day more than 400 people have a heart attack, of whom over half survive for more than a year, while during the year 120,000 suffer from a stroke and 250,000 develop cancer.

Young and old are affected. The average age of a critical illness claimant is 42, which means a lot of people in their thirties are claiming as well as older people.

This insurance is just as important for people with no dependents as for those with children. If you have no partner bringing in an income, the financial hardship of a serious illness can be severe.

"In fact, critical illness is one of the most important insurances for people on their own," says Martha Catterall a director at financial advisers City Independent. "It is more important than life cover for single people with no financial dependents. It typically costs about one-and-a-half times as much as life cover. But the reason for this is that you are in fact far more likely to suffer from a critical illness than to die before you retire," she says.

Virtually all critical illness insurance policies cover the six core conditions of heart attack, coronary bypass surgery, stroke, cancer, kidney failure and major organ transplants. Between them, these account for 90 per cent of all claims.

Apart from these conditions, the illnesses covered vary between policies. For example, some cover more than 30 specified illnesses. But just because one policy has more illnesses listed than another, does not necessarily mean it is a better contract. More important is the insurer's definitions of conditions, as often one definition may cover several illnesses.

One of the most important is for there to be total and permanent disability (TPD). This should mean you can claim if you are unable to work



Insurance cover may be crucial to protect yourself and your family from the loss of income that a critical illness can cause

because of permanent disability or following any serious illness or injury. The best type of TPD cover is for "own occupation" rather than any occupation. This means the policy pays up if you are unable to do your job rather than any work.

The basic idea behind TPD is that if you get a condition not specified in the policy but which permanently stops you from earning, you will be able to claim under the TPD clause," says Peter Telford of Legal & General. To be able to claim, you must not only be unable to work, you must have a realistic prospect of recovery. So if you claim for a broken leg, you are more than likely to be turned down.

Premiums vary between providers and are generally based on your age, sex, medical history, job and leisure activities - if either of these is hazardous either expect to pay more for cover.

You can buy critical illness cover either for a set period of time or on a whole of life basis. At Legal & General, for example, a 34-year-old non-smoking male would pay £33.38 a month for £100,000 of cover for 25 years. If the contract was on a whole of life basis so that the man could keep the cover indefinitely, the premiums would be £57.61. If a smoker, the premiums would be around 40 per cent more. The cost of critical illness cover tends to be a couple of pounds lower for women.

A cheaper way is to add it on to another policy. For example, you may have a life assurance policy running alongside your mortgage, so that in the event of your death, your dependents will receive a lump sum which they can use to pay off the mortgage. If our hypothetical 34-year-old was to add critical illness insurance onto this policy instead of paying £33.38 a month for £100,000 of cover for 25 years, he would pay £29.50.

But there is a downside to having life cover and critical illness cover on one policy. "If you are getting life cover for a loan like a mortgage, having a critical illness rider with life cover makes sense because the loan only has to be paid off once. But if you are buying crit-

ical illness to safeguard your family and lifestyle then you should think about having separate policies," says Peter Telford. "That way if you get sick you still have life cover when you most need it."

Mr Telford points out that if you suffer a critical illness you will find it almost impossible to take out any new life insurance, and if you do manage to, it will be very expensive. If you already have a separate life assurance policy in place, you will not have this problem.

Critical illness insurance policies vary enormously in terms of cover and premiums. An independent financial adviser will be able to help you find the best policy for your needs.

The policy behind PMI  
Finding the right private medical insurance is vital. By David Prosser

THE FINAL days of June marked two health-related anniversaries. First, the National Health Service celebrated its 50th birthday. Then, being just one year after Gordon Brown's first Budget, the last few people over 60 still entitled to tax relief on private medical insurance (PMI) premiums lost this valuable tax break.

This coincidence was rather unfortunate. The cash-starved NHS is struggling to cope with the massive demand for its services. PMI covers policy-holders for many non-emergency medical conditions, enabling them to bypass hospital waiting lists, choose particular hospitals or consultants and to enjoy superior hospital accommodation.

Unfortunately, PMI is expensive, particularly if you want anything more than the most basic level of cover. John Neville of PPP Healthcare says: "What you pay for is what you get and that's as true of PMI as anything else." PPP's mid-market policy, for example, would cost a 25-year-old £51.44 a month. If you're 55, you'd pay monthly premiums of £87.37 for the same policy.

Finding the right PMI policy can be tricky. Last month, John Bridgeman, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, slated medical insurers for packing PMI policies with confusing jargon and unfair opt-out clauses.

While insurers are most often called upon to pay for non-urgent surgical treatment, there are increasing numbers of claims for more serious conditions such as heart disease, kidney problems, cancer and even psychiatric treatment and some plastic surgery.

Some policies are more comprehensive than others. Top-of-the-range will cover you for dental treatment, maternity-related conditions, alternative medicine and sometimes

even opticians' fees. Budget plans offer good value cover but may include some irritating exclusions such as not paying for outpatient treatment.

There are various ways to cut the cost of PMI. Many insurers offer substantial discounts to people prepared to pay policy excesses. At BUPA, for example, a 40-year-old would pay £50.87 a month for comprehensive cover. But if you were prepared to pay the first £500 of any medical bills, the monthly premium would fall to £27.47. Another way to keep premiums low is to agree that you'll only be treated in hospitals from a pre-specified list.

Buying PMI on a family basis can also work out cheaper. Prime Health's family policies, for example, cover all the children in the family, no matter how many there are. A couple, both aged 30, would pay £79.93 a month for family cover with Prime Health.

If you're at all unsure about which PMI policy is most suitable for you, talk to an insurance broker or an independent financial adviser. The OFT wants insurers to produce standard templates for insurance, so that policies are much more easily comparable. But this is still some way off.

One PMI controversy that insurers refuse to be moved on is the so-called moratorium approach to insurance. This allows you to obtain PMI without making any medical declarations or undergoing any examinations, as long as you agree that the policy won't cover you for any pre-existing conditions for a specified period, typically two years.

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David Prosser is features editor of Investors Chronicle

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THE TRADER

LYNNE HAS arranged to meet me in The Cat and Coleslaw. It is one of those strange City pubs that has recently been restored by having its tired old fittings torn out and replaced by tired new fittings: more done over than done up. Consequently, any character it may have acquired over the years has vanished completely in a frenzy of fake wood, brass and substandard light fittings. The perfect venue, then, for a top secret meeting with your headhunter.

I have never actually met Lynne before, so I have no idea what she looks like. Her own

description of herself - "blonde bob, blue suit" - is so general it could apply to almost any City woman, and I am a tad nervous that I will be unable to track her down. I need not have worried. As soon as I walk into the Cat, I can see a small, fair-haired woman in the farthest corner of the bar trying terribly hard to be inconspicuous. What she seems not to have realised is that she is the only person in there who is trying to be inconspicuous, which makes her stand out a mile. Indeed, she may as well have "headhunter" tattooed across her forehead.

Anyway, I march up to her and introduce myself, and when she asks me how I worked out who she was I lie and say something about sixth sense, and she laughs and asks me my star sign. Oh great, I think, astrological small talk; just what I need after a day in the markets. But she seems to want to know, so I tell her and she starts telling me what I am like. It is a bit of a cheek on her part, given that after 25 years of being me I could not tell you what I am like myself. On the other hand, I do not like to interrupt.

After all, for all I know, the

mystery company could have moved on from handwriting analysis to astrology as its means of staff assessment.

So I put up with about 30 minutes of this, trying not to think about what I could be doing instead, and eventually we turn to the matter in hand: the well-paid position of the terribly prestigious organisation that would suit me down to the ground. Except that it wouldn't.

Lynne has one thing right. It is an extremely generous salary on offer. It would have to be, since no one in their right mind would work for an organisation

like well, let us just call it Megalomaniac plc. No one has survived the in-house trading room for more than three months before crashing out or having a nervous breakdown.

What exactly makes Lynne think I will do any better? Well, she says, everyone I have ever spoken to says how charming you are, and how diplomatic and good at defusing tense situations. "I just thought..." she mumbles sadly, watching her commission slide away from her.

We are just leaving the pub when we bump into Rory, of all people, and I have to introduce

Lynne to him as "Er, a friend of mine", which does not fool him for a second. He glowers at me in a slightly hurt way and strides off into the smoky gloom.

But the next day, Rory seems to have forgotten about our little encounter, and there is no more mention of talismans. Anyway, Rory is on the phone most of the day, or in meetings, so we hardly see anything of him.

It is two days later that the letter drops on to my desk. "In recognition of your outstanding performance over the past few months, it has been decided to increase your salary to..."

# Housing may lose out to new jobs campaign

Government plans to shake up the funding of local councils could threaten plans to build and repair homes. By Paul Gosling

**H**ousing professionals fear that when the Chancellor announces the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the next few days, the result will be that billions of pounds held by councils to spend on housing will instead go on "New Deal" employment projects. While local authorities favour greater flexibility in the use of the capital receipts from "right-to-buy" sales, allowing them to spend them on regeneration and job creation schemes, housing managers argue that the money is needed to renovate and build homes.

John Perry, acting chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, says that there is "consternation" at proposals published in a recent consultation paper to integrate local authorities' Housing Investment Programmes into the rest of their capital budgets. The idea, he says, is "a really nasty one".

The result could be that much of the £25bn of housing capital receipts held by councils would go on non-housing regeneration and employment projects. John Perry argues that this is particularly true in shire districts, where currently 70 to 80 per cent of capital expenditure is on housing.

"There is a good case for a single pot, but not if you start with such

a massive backlog of repairs," says Mr Perry. The institute calculates that £18bn to £20bn is urgently needed to bring the public housing stock up to good condition. It adds that experience of the Single Regeneration Budget clearly shows a diversion away from spending on housing to employment-generating activities whenever capital budgets are merged. Mr Perry hopes that when the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review are published, proposals for a single pot will have been dropped, or at least modified.

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said that, while he could not indicate the outcome of the consultation, he could confirm that guidelines on the implementation of the "single pot" would be published shortly after the announcement of the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Housing associations are also worried, believing that they will see less in the way of grants from councils' capital budgets. Aaron Cahill, policy officer for the National Housing Federation, which represents housing associations, says that the Government must not overlook the fact that it is as important to maintain existing social housing stock as it is to build new properties.

"Housing need has to be objectively assessed in terms of local

housing demand," says Mr Cahill. "People are concerned about numbers, but there is a considerable quantity of public housing which is in appalling condition, and requires enormous amounts of money spending on it."

The Association of London Government says it has "reservations about creating a single pot, but recognises the benefits of giving councils more powers to decide spending priorities for themselves. The much larger Local Government Association, however, welcomes the idea.

"Our line has been that we want the restrictions on the use of capital receipts removed," says Keith Beaumont, the LGA's head of capital.

The association also supports the Government's stated intention to release £250m a year from existing capital receipts for extra spending - but opposes the suggestion that this should be deducted from the

amount councils can borrow for capital spending, thereby nullifying the effect on capital works.

Steve Wilcox, a housing researcher based at York University, says that, essentially, the Government's proposals merely confirm current practice: "What tends to happen is that some housing money

provide a subsidy to their general fund from their housing revenue account, which is theoretically ring-fenced to be run as a self-financing business.

The result is that rents go up to keep the council tax artificially low. In areas where all or most tenants are on housing benefit, it becomes

"There is a considerable quantity of public housing which is in appalling condition and requires enormous amounts of money spending on it"

spent on other services, rather than other services' receipts being spent on housing," he observes. In many instances, capital receipts from housing sales are used for new leisure centres or town hall extensions.

What is more, says Mr Wilcox, some local authorities are using their capital budgets to, in effect,

the Department of Social Security that provides additional financial support to a council. One way to create this subsidy is by requiring tenants to pay contributions towards the capital costs of renovations, when these were paid for out of grants received by the council.

One housing director explained how a council might provide another

hidden subsidy. From their housing investment programme, a capital allocation can be made to a local housing association. The authority is then reimbursed this grant from the Housing Corporation, but it is no longer legally allowed to spend it on capital projects, having lost its credit approval from the Government. The net result is that the sum of money is transferred from the housing capital budget into the council's general revenue fund.

Housing consultant, Graham Moody, says that "at the margins" there are other examples of housing rents being used to subsidise the council tax. Local authorities' finance officers have a certain amount of discretion on when to allocate debt management charges to the housing rent account, and when to allocate them to the general fund.

There is also some flexibility in charging the cost of wards in sheltered accommodation against either the housing revenue account

or the social services' budget within the general fund. John Perry, of the Chartered Institute of Housing, adds: "Some councils still pay out of the housing revenue account for things that, in other parts of the city, would come out of the general fund. These include some of the housing estates cleaning costs, and employment projects targeted at a particular group of tenants. This reflects the tight pressures placed on the general fund from capping in recent years," says Mr Perry.

The approach to capital budgets preferred by both the institute and the Association of London Government would be a refutation of the Housing Investment Programme as a separate capital budget, which is approved by Government on the basis of a three-year rolling programme.

Only a strategic plan like this, they believe, will make worthwhile inroads into reversing the serious decline of public housing.



Experts estimate that as much as £2bn is already needed to bring the public housing stock up to good condition

**NEVILLE RUSSELL**, the 14th largest UK firm of accountants, is to merge with Mazars & Guerard, France's sixth largest firm, in a bid to create a "pan-European mid-tier professional services partnership of substance". The merger organisation will have 275 partners and 3,500 staff in 26 countries around the world, though the largest concentration will be in Europe.

**WASTEFUL COST** overruns such as those associated with the building of the British Library could be a thing of the past say the Institute of Actuaries and the Institution of Civil Engineers, if firms adopt the risk analysis set out in their joint publication, The RAMP Handbook. The RAMP (Risk Analysis and Management of Projects) method has been devised by the two organisations as a framework for dealing with not just construction projects but all kinds of risks and uncertainty, such as those associated with the introduction of the euro.

## UPDATE

**THE ROLE** of the internal audit is perceived to be a combination of consultant/adviser and policeman, with the consultant role likely to expand further, according to a survey of the field conducted by Arthur Andersen. The report, *Creating a best practice internal audit function*, also found that managing business risk was fast becoming the auditor's principal objective.

**TRE LEGAL** issues relating to the introduction of the euro from 1 January 1999 are the subject of a guide that has just been published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The guide's author, Geoffrey Yeowart of solicitors Lovell White Durrant, says that it is particularly important for companies to review any contracts that will continue beyond the euro's starting date in order to identify whether any changes are necessary.

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It's not just our emotions that are suffering from the unseasonable temperatures and cloudy skies. It's our jobs. By Katie Hilpern

# Making heavy weather of work

**M**ention Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and the first image that springs to mind is winter. Dark December days causing fatigue and depression, right? Wrong. According to the SAD Association, recent British weather has been so gloomy that many sufferers are being tormented right now. And since everyone's mood is influenced by sunlight to some degree, the rest of us are also likely to be experiencing symptoms of the summertime blues. And experts believe it's our work that is being affected most severely.

Research shows that when the sun is shining, people are more credulous, give bigger tips, make more sales and are generally more successful in business," explains Dr Lance Workman, a biological psychologist at the University of Glamorgan. "But when it is dreary - as it has been lately - the opposite tends to happen.

"What people seem to forget is that parts of Britain are further north than some parts of Alaska," he continues. "So it should not be surprising that our summers aren't always great, or indeed that the number of people suffering from varying degrees of SAD is far higher than in other countries. I have found that as many as 11 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men have a big problem with it."

For those unaffected by SAD, the possibility of the weather hampering one's job prospects - particularly in summer - may seem a little far-fetched. "Many [SAD] sufferers start out enthusiastically in springtime," maintains Nick Martin, research nurse at Southampton University. "But by November they're so depressed they simply can't cope anymore." And if dark days set in earlier than they should, that reeling point can come much sooner, sometimes even in July or August. However, there is a good chance that the lack of sunshine may be causing even you to be more hostile than usual to clients and colleagues, and less productive overall. Find yourself swearing blindly at your

desk neighbour for borrowing your World Cup mug? Bridget Hogg, a chartered occupational psychologist, explains: "Feeling down and tired in the office is expressed differently according to the individual, but generally people become introverted - they won't have much to contribute at meetings; their desk work will suffer because they lose confidence and interest, and they will become less sociable."

According to experts, women are hit the hardest. SAD affects four times as many women as men, usually between the ages of 20 and 40.

Alison Hedd, 39, knows this all too well. "I was an excellent PA until five years ago. But that winter, I felt ghastly. I couldn't understand it because I loved my job and was happy in a relationship. But the depression just got worse until I was so bad-tempered that my work really suffered. I was rude to clients - not to mention my boss - and I never seemed to have the energy to do any work. I used to want to fall asleep in every meeting. It was only when I discovered the benefits of having artificial daylight from a light box that my life started to go back to normal again. I have never had to use it in the summertime before but this month, I think I may. The symptoms are already creeping back."

George Michaelides, of the media company Michaelides and Bednash, has found another solution. "When we started out, one of our biggest priorities was to design an office that allowed maximum daylight - which would brighten up the working environment even in winter and in weather like we're having at the moment. What we've wound up with is a huge, pine-floored room with one shared table at its centre where all employees are entirely surrounded by big windows." Michaelides is in little doubt as to the advantages of a bright, airy office. "Why do you think bosses of traditional companies always make sure they get a corner office where there are two windows rather than one?"

Most organisations, however, are not quite as considerate. The SAD Association claims that since the majority of British GPs are unsympathetic to weather-influenced



Through the glass brightly: George Michaelides's priority was to design an office that allowed maximum daylight Neville Elder

disorders, we have got a long way to go before convincing employers. Meanwhile, sitting in a cramped open-plan office in which there are more partitions than windows remains the murky reality for many of us. Even the most modern offices tend to block out sunlight with darkened glass.

"Since we spend more hours in work than any other country in Europe, this is not a problem that should be underestimated," stresses Hogg.

And if you think you've escaped Seasonal Affective Disorder, there's another temporal affliction waiting to strike you down: Sundown Syn-

drome. This year-round condition means that whatever the weather, you may become increasingly agitated and confused in the late afternoon. Dr Ian Rodin, a lecturer in psychiatry at Southampton University, says: "It's well known that the time of day can affect how people feel. Our body has daily biorhythms and

their patterns are partly dictated by when the sun rises and sets." So the next overcast day you find yourself shouting at a colleague for chatting too loudly as the afternoon wears on or feel a power-nap coming on at 4pm, count yourself unlucky - you could be coming down with a nasty bout of SAD and a dose of SS to boot.

Maureen Ali, 50, is a documentary film producer and SAD sufferer.

Last winter wasn't too bad for sufferers of SAD - there have been worse winters. But this summer seems to have made up for it. It has really got me down, especially at work where I feel incredibly stressed.

I keep telling colleagues that if only I could enjoy some warm, sunny weather - like we should be having at this time of year - at the weekends, I wouldn't feel so bad when I come back to work in my basement office on a Monday morning. Even my evenings at home are ruined because I walk out of work into what should be a glorious, revitalising afternoon, but since it is so gloomy, I wind up carrying my stress home with me.

If the weather does not improve, I dread to think how I will feel by the autumn. Even Easter was terrible. It was so dismal that I found myself staying in bed until 2pm, which is totally unheard of for me in usual circumstances. In fact, I've made sure that I'm going to the south of France on the August bank holiday weekend.

That way, I know for sure I will get some sunny weather before the winter sets in, which is the only way that I think I will cope.

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A classic PA role within a prominent European Banking Group for an accomplished traditional Secretary seeking total involvement. Supporting the Group Chairman with direct European report lines, who will need your previous handling of a high pressure environment to cope within this front line area, using your languages for client co-ordination.

- act as ambassador, organising meetings, overseas travel, liaising and expenses
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- proficient Word, Excel and PowerPoint and shorthand an advantage

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- extensive travel, itineraries and associated expenses
- worldwide meetings, liaising with a global network of clients
- this high profile front line position will need an accomplished professional PA with proficient skills and a natural strength for organising and anticipating



Caitlyn McCarthy (right) looks over some images for use in 'Red', all part of her job as PA to editor, Kathryn Brown (left)

Philip Meech

## Job with a red-hot future

HAVING COMPLETED a Masters degree in English, I got a temping job at *Total Sport* working for Danny Kelly, then the magazine's editor. I was rather inappropriate for the job because I wasn't interested in sport, whereas my colleagues would dissolve into floods of tears whenever there was a major loss for England.

It was daunting being the only female in the office and my tea-making skills began to get a little over-used. But I had a rapport with Danny who loved the fact that I was the most qualified member of staff on the magazine. He even used to joke that I was secretly doing a PhD on male chauvinism.

Kath worked for Emap Elan, the sister company to Emap Metro, *Total Sport's* publishers, and we got on like a house on fire. Both being redheads from Essex, we look and sound similar – even Kath's boyfriend mistakes our voices on the phone.

When Kath was made editor of *Red*, I wrote asking if I could work

for her, and she replied, "When can you start?"

Coming from rowdy men's magazines, I was surprised by how beautiful and glamorous the women at *Red*, *Elle* and *New Woman* were, and I immediately changed my dress code to keep up. But the fashion world still seemed quite alien to me because I've always been a bit of a tomboy.

It was bizarre to work on a launch because everything was top secret; the magazine was even given the code name "Project Miriam". All I knew was that it would be an intelligent magazine celebrating women in their "middle youth". My friends nagged me

senseless for information about the magazine, but I told them little except that it was designed for people like us. They now read and love it.

During my first months, I did a bit of everything, including ordering all the furniture, but as the staff moved in I became more concentrated on Kath's work. She is

### I WORK FOR CAITLYN MCCARTHY IS PA TO KATHRYN BROWN, EDITOR OF WOMEN'S MAGAZINE, 'RED'

meticulous, and never flaps except when it comes to IT. When she was asked to swap Mac for a PC she was nearly in tears, and was the only person allowed to keep her old computer.

My first major task for her was to organise a weekend conference for the 33 newly appointed staff. Kath got horrendously drunk the first night and I got plastered on the second.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly until, the following day, a presentation was interrupted by water flooded through the ceiling on to the table. I began to despair, because it seemed that Kath's efforts to present the image of a slick magazine were being sabotaged by scenes from *Fawlty Towers*.

When I asked her if I could write something for the magazine, I was immediately given a monthly shopping news page and a number of film reviews to write, which

illustrates how true to her word Kath is. At first I began writing in an academic style, but the Associate Editor kindly showed me how to jazz up my copy to make it less stilted. But I am still always surprised that others see my job as glamorous.

At least once a month we have a Red night out, which can turn into a messy all-nighter. The other day, when I remarked that England were playing their first match, Kath leapt up and said: "Of course we've all got to go out and watch it." We all piled down to the pub, except for one of our male colleagues who doesn't like football.

In my spare time I do voluntary work for a Domestic Violence Intervention Project. Sometimes I find it very difficult to move from what seems like one extreme to another. The magazine world can seem a bit frivolous at times, yet *Red* remains refreshingly down to earth.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

TEL: 0171 293 2222 APPOINTMENTS: SENIOR SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT FAX: 0171 293 2505



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For further information on both posts, and an application form please write to Mrs M. Hanson, Head of Personnel, Intermediate Technology, The Schumacher Centre for Technology and Development, Bourton Hall, Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9QZ

Final date for return of application forms will be Monday, 20th July 1998. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Co Reg. No. 871944, England, Reg. Charity No. 247257

### THE INDEPENDENT

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Pages of secretarial appointments every Wednesday.

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For further information and an application pack contact: The Personnel Department, CRC, 10 Cambridge Terrace, Regents Park, London NW1 4JL or call 0171 224 1333 between 10am & 4pm, www.crc.org.uk

Closing date: 20th July 1998. Interviews: 1st week August.

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## Knickers, phones and Mr Tom Jones



### THE TEMP

TOM JONES has ruined my voice. I screamed so loudly at the Party in the Park on Sunday that something went chunk in my throat and now I can hardly talk. Besides, my concentration is shot to hell and all I can talk about is the fact that this Welsh grandad is God. There wasn't a dry seat (or patch of grass) in Hyde Park by the time he'd finished singing "Hard to Handle".

Given the state of my voice, it's almost inevitable that I should be working switchboard this week. Switchboard is my least favourite thing to do after filing, and when all you want to do is sit around going "...then he took his jacket off and whirled it around his head, and you won't believe what he did with his belt buckle...", five days answering the phone is as close to an eternity in purgatory as being forced to sit through an All Saints concert.

If I hadn't been wearing jeans I would have whipped my knickers off there and then, and lobbed them straight at him.)

Especially when, as usual, no-one has bothered to fill you in on the company you're working for. According to my agency, they're a property developer called DezRez-U-Like Inc. I also gather – via a process of telling several dozen callers that they've got the wrong number – they're also into property management, flat letting, self-catering holidays, PR, house repossession lists, quantitative research, a "dating agency", a vanity press, career management, legal advice (an 0891 number), ticket touting and, I'm sure, a couple of dozen other fields I've not identified as yet. Not bad for a company that only seems to have 30 employees. Turns out, after a few hours, that I was supposed to answer the phone with the words "Good morning, DezRez Group Inc". I'm sure I can't have lost that many clients for the ticket agency by informing them they are called DezRez-U-Like Inc.

Tom Jones is older than my dad. So how come my dad's bum looks like two sacks of flour in a hammock when Tom Jones's looks like two footballs in a hula? (Has anyone had a heart attack at a Tom Jones concert?)

A man rang up for a date yesterday. It only ever seems to be men who ring the dating agency. Makes me wonder, but as a temp the best thing to do is keep your head down. The girl who runs the company was at lunch; I offered to take a message. "Well," he said, "what do you look like? Maybe we can do business and cut out the handling fee." "No thanks. I'm a switchboard operator, not a date." "Oh," he said. "No offence, love. It's just that gorgeous husky voice. I could listen to it all day".

(Does anyone have Tom Jones's phone number? I'll swap you all my old Elvis albums...)





## WEDNESDAY RADIO

## RADIO 1

(97.6-98.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Kevin Greenglass and Zoe Bell  
9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00  
Dave Pearce 6.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 8.40  
John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00 Clive Warren 4.00 6.30 Chris Moyles.

## RADIO 2

(68.922MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barracough 8.00 Mike Harding 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show 10.00 Johnnie Walker 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

## RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week 11.00 Sound Stories 12.00 Composers of the Week: Byrd and Tallis.

1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert 2.00 The BBC Orchestras 4.00 Choral Evensong 5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. The second of three concerts in which Alfred Brendel plays all of

Beethoven's piano concertos. Conductors George Benjamin and Volkmar Schmidt-Gertenbach, Alfred Brendel (piano), Valdine Anderson (soprano), Sinfonia Varsovia.

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat; Benjamin: A Mind of Winter. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor.

9.30 Postscript. Five programmes this week in which Kathleen Griffin visits European spas. 3: 'Lake Balaton - the Revolutionary Spa'. The largest lake in Central Europe, where in the mid-19th century, writers and artists met to plot against the Hapsburg Empire. (R)

9.30 Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra Conductors Karlheinz Stockhausen, Bruno Maderna and Michael Gielen. Stockhausen: Gruppen.

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE SUCCESS of *Spoonface Sternberg* - whose heroine was, you'll remember, autistic - seems to have inspired a small vogue for radio drama about people with mental disabilities of one sort or another. A month or two back there was the childlike hero of *Pigs' Paradise*, and now there's John Doh's *Gets Taken for a Ride*. (2.15pm R4). Richard Lumsden's (right) play consists largely of a monologue spoken by

the simple-minded John, whose parents have kept him hidden away since birth. Everything he knows about the world he has picked up from peeking through windows, listening to next door's radio and during nighttime outings in his parents' car. A nice performance by Peter Gunn and careful production, but that's quite enough wisdom-in-simplicity for now.

ROBERT HANKS



10.00 The Piano. With Piers Lane. 'The Piano and Dance'. Weber, arr. Tausig: Invitation to the Dance. Benno Moiseiwitsch: Bach: English Suite No 2. BWV807 (Bourrees), Ivo Pogorelich: Brahms: Hungarian Dance No 4. Yo-Yo Ma and Andreas Groethuysen: Chopin: Polonaise in A flat, Op 53. Shura Cherkassky.

Chopin: Mazurka, Op 33 No 4. Ignaz Friedman: Chabrier: Bouree Fantasque. Allan Shiller: Schulz-Ever: Concert Arabesques on Strauss's Blue Danube Waltz. Josef Lhevinne.

10.45 Nigh Waves. Laura Cumming explores the many faces of Carmen as a new production of Bizet's opera transplants the heroine to the 21st century as queen of the cyber chicks. Plus news from the world premiere of 'The Peony Pavilion', a 22-hour-long piece of Kunju opera about a beautiful woman and her dream lover, written by the man described as the Shakespeare of China, Tan Xianzu.

It is being performed in New York in its entirety for the first time for modern audiences, who are encouraged to chat, eat and drink tea.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Barber. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.

9.00 Midweek.

9.45 Serial Reflections.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: On Watch. 11.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad Remembered.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Wordly Wits. (R)

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: John Doh Gets Taken for a Ride. See Pick of the Day

3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.

3.30 The Great Outdoors. (R)

3.45 Fictional Familiars.

4.00 NEWS: Four Walls.

4.30 Thinking Allowed.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Audio Diaries. (R)

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row: Mark Lawson

investigates the latest transatlantic cartoon import, *South Park*.

7.45 Under One Roof: What's inside a girl? By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dona and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director Marilyn Iris (35).

8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze.

Michael Buerk and his team of regulars cross-examine 'witnesses' about their views on the moral questions behind one of the week's headlines.

8.45 World Cup Letters: Simon Barnes of the Times and the Spectator presents from France a wry

look at an event all too often characterised by bluster and hyperbole.

9.00 NEWS: State of Emergency.

In the second of two programmes, Peter Curran meets the technologists who are attempting to design out danger from the next generation of trains, planes and buildings.

9.30 Midweek: Libby Purves talks

to guests including the director of Kew Gardens, Sir Ghillean Prance.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abandoned by Neville Teller (3/10).

11.00 The Way It Is: Satire, sketches and a hard look behind the week's media events from Sanjeev Bhaskar, Simon Evans, Dave Lamb and Fiona Allen.

11.30 The Mark Steel Revolution.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (98kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00

12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

## RADIO 5 LIVE (69.3, 90.9kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme

9.00 Nick Campbell

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Nationwide.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 World Cup 98. John Inverdale introduces full commentary from St-Denis on the second World Cup semi-final, including the National Lottery Draw.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

## CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly

12.00 Requests 2.00 Concerto

3.00 Jenny Crick 6.30

Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Mann 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

## VIRGIN RADIO (125.1, 197.2-200MHz MW)

7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00 Nick Abbott 4.00

Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from 6.45pm 7.30 Ray Cokes.

10.00 Mark Forster 2.00 Camlin Jones 5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

## WORLD SERVICE (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newdesk 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newdesk 2.30 Omnibus 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Mendi- an (Books) 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Report 4.45 Sports Roundup 4.40 The World Today (0430-0700) Insight (SW 5875kHz only) 4.45 Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz only) 5.30 Outlook (SW 7225kHz only) 5.55 Music Brief (SW 7235kHz only).

## WORLD SERVICE (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newdesk 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newdesk 2.30 Omnibus 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Mendi- an (Books) 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Report 4.45 Sports Roundup 4.40 The World Today (0430-0700) Insight (SW 5875kHz only) 4.45 Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz only) 5.30 Outlook (SW 7225kHz only) 5.55 Music Brief (SW 7235kHz only).

## TALK RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The New Talk Radio Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm

12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00 Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deely 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale

1.00 Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night 5.00 Bill Overton.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

## CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

Michael Adams's win against Viswanathan Anand at Dortmund was a curious game in which neither player seemed to be in control when the critical moment arrived.

Adams's choice of a quiet variation of the closed Sicilian did not bring him much joy. When Anand played 13...axb4 instead of the routine 13...axb4, White's game quickly became difficult. After Black's vigorous 18...a4 and 19...b3, White felt obliged to surrender material rather than suffer 20...cxb3 Rxb3 when his d-pawn must fall.

Having won the exchange, however, Black found that his position was not as good as he might have expected. The critical position arose after 24.Rb1 when the pin on the b-file is not easy to break. After the natural 24...Qb8, White has the choice between 25.Bg5 and 25.Qd1. Since any retreat of the rook to b7 is liable to be answered by e5, Black has no easy way to consolidate his material advantage.

Anand's 24...Qc7 returned the material immediately and Adams seized his chance with the excellent move 28.c5! giving up a pawn to ensure the advance of his a-pawn. White's plan in the resulting end-game was to infiltrate with his queen to f6, then launch a K-side

attack. Anand wrecked his game trying to prevent it.

**White:** Michael Adams  
**Black:** Viswanathan Anand  
Dortmund 1998

1 e4 c5 30 a5 Bd4

2 Nc3 Nc6 31 Bd4 c4

3 g3 g6 32 Qxc4 Qb2

4 Bg2 Bg7 33 Qe2 Qc3

5 d3 d6 34 Kg2 Bb6

6 Be3 Rb8 35 Qa2 Qd4

7 Qd2 b5 36 Qe2 e6

8 Ng2 Nd4 37 Bb5 h6

9 0-0 b4 38 Qe2 Qc5

10 Nd1 Nxe2+ 39 Qb5

11 Qxe2 Nf6 40 Bd3 g4

12 a3 a5 41 Qf6 h5

13 axb4 axb4 42 Qf4 Kf7

14 Bd2 Nd7 43 e5 Qd5+

15 Ra2 0-0 44 Be4 Qd4

16 Ne3 Nc5 45 Qh6+ Ke7

17 b3 Ba6 46 Qf6+ Kf8

18 Nc4 a4 47 Bc7 Kg8

19 hx a3 b3 48 h4 gxh3+</

